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What a tip

Boss threatened with jail over of waste mountain



Memory Lane

Former driver Paul tells of life on the buses



Chief's view

Fixtures are the key says Heathens' boss Pottinger



Ban on boozing in street returns

AN ALCOHOL ban is to return to Dudley town centre after complaints from traders and residents about people drinking in the streets.

streets.
Police have been putting up 'no drinking' signs to tackle booze-fuelled anticocial behaviour. They will confiscate and pour away any alcohol they see being drunk in and around the town centre.

town centre.

Sgt Rob Simpson said officers had been forced to take 'robust' action following concerns raised by businesses and residents and residents have been telling us that they are unhappy with street drinking so we will be taking a robust approach to this offence.

"Anyone that does not

this offence.

"Anyone that does not comply with the alcohol free zone will be arrested and fined at court.

"This alcohol free zone will be a continuing part of our policing across the town centre and will not expire unless we apply for it to be unless we apply for it to be rescinded," he said.

Councillor Steve Waltho Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member responsible for community safety, said: "As a partnership we take anything that has an impact on our local communities conjourly." on our l seriously.

"This order will hopefully improve the area for busi-nesses and residents."

£600k loss for museum

THE Black Country Living

THE Black Country Living Museum made a loss of 5599,745 as visitor numbers plummeted by almost 50,000 in a year, its latest accounts have revealed.

A fall in ticket sales and spending on site cost the museum £285,202 last year and a drop in donations and the value of assets added to its problems.

Bosses at the museum in Tipton Road, Dudley, blamed the poor weather last year as they revealed the number of people through the doors was well below' their target.

● Full story - Page 4

INDUCTORS COULD **BACK ON BUSES**

Report by John Scott

BUS conductors could be on the way back in the West Midlands, following the murder of Christina Edkins as she travelled to school in Halesowen.

Transport chiefs are considering the move to make passengers feel safer after the 16-year-old was stabbed on a bus. National Express drivers have radios so they can report any trouble.



Tragic - Christina Edkins **Stray horses**

roam free on busy road

any trouble.

But those on Arriva buses have to use their own mobiles to call for assistance, the region's Police and Crime Panel was told this week.

Councillor Deirdre Alden, who represents the Edghas was told ward in Birmingham, where Miss Edkins was killed on the Hagley Road, told National Express boss Peter Coates: "It would make parents happier putting their children on your buses if you brought back conductors."

Impact

Impact

Mr Coates, who appeared with Gordon Frost, area manager for Arriva Mid-lands and police officers involved with the Safer Travel Partnership, said: "I do not think we would see do not think we would see conductors deployed on all our 1,500 buses because that would be uneconomic, but we could explore having them on certain journeys where they could have the greatest impact."

Crime on buses in the West Midlands has fallen by 67 per cent in the last six years from around 7,000 offences in 2006-07 to 2,398 in the last financial year. But the number of passen-

THREE horses disrupted traffic yesterday (Wednesday) as they roamed free on a busy road near Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

The animals were spotted wandering along Pensnett High Street, forcing drivers to slow down. to slow down.

They then retreated to a They then retreated to a grassy bank by the hospital car park where they were seen grazing.
Passers-by said they believed the animals had come from the nearby Fens Pool nature reserve.

Mike Staff, of Chapel Street, said: "They almost caused an accident. It is a problem around here and people have just started to see it as normal."

in the last financial year.
But the number of passengers reporting that they feel safe on the region's buses is significantly lower than in other areas such as Tyne & Wear and Greater Manchester. A decision on the use of conductors will be made by September.

Obri wins Christina memorial prize



Neil Shaw presents the Christina Edkins Memorial Award to the first winner, student Obri Gonzalez

Neil Shaw presents the Christin A TALENTED teenager was awarded with a school accolade in memory of stabbing victim Christina Edkins.

Obri Gonzalez was a friend of Christina's at Leasowes High School in Halesowen, last seeing the 16-year-old school girl in a history lesson on the day before she was killed.

Obri, also 16, was given the Christina Edkins Memorial Award in front of more than 300 nunils and

Christina Edkins Memoriai Award in front of more than 300 pupils and parents at the school's end of year awards ceremony on Tuesday. The large glass award, which comes with a glass miniature to be kept by the

first 16 annual winners to mark Christina's age, was given to Obri by school principal Neil Shaw. Mr Shaw said the decision to pick Obri, who was selected for represent-ing the best attributes and aspirations of the school was annoved by of the school, was approved by Christina's family.

Obri was one of two speakers from the school at Christina's funeral,

reading out a poem he chose called An Angel Named Christina.

Mr Shaw said Obri's support to pupils and teachers following Christina's death had been 'invalu-

able', describing how he stood up in front of an assembly to speak following the tragic incident.

After receiving the award, Obri said:
"It feels crazy to win such an award but
I feel very honoured."
Obri has helped organise the end of

year prom. Christina had purchased a purple dress for the event, so in memory of her, the colour will be the

Christina died after she was stabbed on the upper deck of a bus in Edgbas ton on March 7.

Three of **Merry Hill** stores on the brink

THREE national chains THREE national chains with stores at Merry till were this week on the brink of administration, plunging dozens of jobs at the shopping centre under threat.

Clothing group Internacionale, model specialists ModelZone and fashion retailer Ark have filed notices to appoint administrators.

notices to appoint administrators.

The announcement was made on Wednesday, hours before they were due to pay rents for the next quarter.

The groups all have stores at the shopping centre in Brierley Hill.

It is unclear how many staff are based at Internacionale and ModelZone – but nine people work at Ark.

nine people work at Ark.

Councillor for the Brierley
Hill ward, Zafar Islam, said:
"If, unfortunately, one or more stores do close, even if it was a few people who lost their jobs, it would be a ter-rible time for anyone to be put in that situation." He added: "I must admit I haven't noticed Merry Hill

awen't noticed Merry Hill shopping centre struggling. "Whenever I am there it is thriving and there doesn't seem to be any problem there with a lack of shops.

"I hope if there were any shop closures, those stores would be occupied as soon as possible, not just to fill the centre, but to provide local iche."

Three hurt in stab drama

FIVE men were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a man was stabbed in Stourbridge.

stabbed in Stourbridge.

It happened outside The Arena nightclub, formerly The Picture House, Hagley Road, at 3.23am on Sunday.

One man was detained in hospital. His condition is not thought to be life threatening. Two other injured people were discharged from hospital. Investigations were continuing this week.

The five arrested mon

The five arrested men aged 21, 23, 25, 28 and 31 were bailed to the end of August.

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Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help

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Mayor urges residents to back food bank

Dudley Council is officially sup-porting Black Country Food Bank and is encouraging residents to join

The charity provides food and other support to vulnerable people and those in most need.

Last year the food bank fed 3,735 people from Dudley borough, but this year the figure could rise to 6,200.

The charity provides food and ther support to vulnerable people and those in most need.

The council has pledged to give what they can or buy an extra item in their weekly shop and donate at one of the drop-off points.

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "The Food Bank also needs your help and support, by Dudley, said: "The Food Bank also needs your help and support, by donating items such as UHT or powdered milk, baked beans, or a packet of pasta and rice. These items are not expensive and you might have them already sitting in your cupboard. I would urge people to give what they can and help support people in most need."

vulnerable people and families in crisis through the provision of three days of emergency food supplies while a longer-term solution is developed.

The charity has also set up a shopping list of the items they most need. For more information on Black Country Food Bank visit www.black-countryfood bank.org.uk

Council in dementia safe haven initiative

Dudley borough are being encouraged to sign up to become safe places for residents with dementia.

Dudley Council is working to improve he support given to the growing number f pensioners diagnosed with the condi-

of pensioners diagnosed with the condi-tion.

It comes as work on the first stage of a £1.6 million project to revamp two day centres to help them better serve the needs of residents with dementia gets

under way.
Brettell Lane Centre, in Stourbridge, and Brett Young Centre, in Halesowen, which are being refurbished in the coming months, are both 'Dementia coming months, are both 'Dementia Gateways', providing advice and practi-

cal help.
Staff will be talking to shopkeepers, community leaders and workers at key locations in towns to educate them about dementia and explaining how they can support customers with the condition.
Council staff spent two days talking to shoppers and shopkeepers about the initiative at the Cornbow Centre, in Halesowen

Any dementia-friendly places will be able to display a recognisable 'safe place' logo. Shoppers can then be assured that their needs will be recognised and they

their needs win be recessively be supported.

It is estimated that around 3,850 people in the borough are affected by the

Supporting

Councillor Dave Branwood, cabinet member for adult and community serv-ices, said: "Despite difficult budgetary pressures we are responding to the Prime Minister's Challenge on Demen-

Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia Document to develop dementia-friendly communities in Dudley borough.

"We have been supporting people with dementia through our dementia gateways since 2011 and are keen to help break down barriers that exist in society. "People living with dementia tell us they commonly experience loneliness, isolation, anxiety and depression because society and communities are not geared up to deal with people with dementia.

"The recent visit to Halesowen was a great success and well received by the community, with people very happy to

community, with people very happy to come on board."

Students give church £31k makeover



Exciting opportunity - Garfield Young with his teacher, Andy Gurney at work on the church

THE bells were ringing loud and clear across Lye last week after students from Sandwell College helped put the finishing touches to a £31,000 church restoration writer.

a £31,000 church restoration project.
Seven painting and decorating students refurbished the wood-work in the ringing chamber of Christ Church, High Street, and repainted the room.
Bob Field, chairman of the bells restoration committee, said it was a pleasure to have the students

They have worked really hard

and the room looks fantastic The redecoration was the final stage of a four-year project which has seen a complete overhaul of the interior of the 200-year-old

The work, all of which was completed by volunteers, involved rehanging the bells and fitting new ceilings and floors.

sandwen Conege got involved in the project through head of con-struction Mike Barnbrook, 49, a member of the church's congrega-tion.

He said: "I have been in the trade for 30 years and I've never painted anything like this. It's fantastic experience for our stu-

Teacher Andy Gurney, 52, said: "The paint on the woodwork had

been there for more than 60 years.

as seen a complete overhaul of he interior of the 200-year-old ower.

The work, all of which was comleted by volunteers, involved reanging the bells and fitting new eligings and floors.

Sandwell College got involved in the was comportunity to take the skills they have learned at college and put them into practice."

Garfield Young, 50, a student from West Bromwich, said he was comportunity to take the skills they have learned at college and put them into practice."

excited when the opportunity

excited when the opportunity came up.

"I will probably never get the chance to work on something like this again. I'm used to working on newer buildings, but working with all materials is completely different to the control of the old materials is completely differ-

ent. This year Christ Church celebrates its bi-centennial having opened in 1813.

Full range of services with

Football complex set for go-ahead

A £1 million football complex earmarked for playing fields in Dudley is to be given the go-ahead, despite concerns raised by residents.
An all-weather flood-lit

pitch and a challenge course

pitch and a challenge course is planned as the next phase of Dudley College's town centre learning quarter.
There will be changing facilities with parking for players and visitors and it will be open to students, schools and the community. The complex will be built to Football Association standards on playing fields next

dards on playing fields next to Castle High School, in Priory Road.

Priory Road.

But the proposals are unpopular with people living nearby who fear their peace and quiet will be disturbed.

Ten households concerned about noise have raised objections. They are also worried about the flood lights which will be installed and an increase in traffic at and an increase in traffic at

and an increase in traffic at the site.

But Dudley Council planners recommended the prosals to councillors for approval.

Dudley College principal Lowell Williams said: "We have agreed a usage plan to guarantee the facility will not cause any unnecessary disruption. The benefits the new facility will bring to the community are immense." community are immense.

Skills to be improved by degrees

A TWO-YEAR course bene fitting employers in the West Midlands in the manufacturing engineering sector is to be launched by the Uni-versity of Wolverhampton in

The BEng (Hons) Manu-The BEng (Hons) Manufacturing Engineering course, is an employer-sponsored degree which will allow businesses to improve their employees' skills.

Sponsored employees will attend the university two days a week and spend three days a week in the work-

days a week in the work

place.
The university collaborated with a number of partners including UTC Aerospace Systems, Caparo Tube Components, TRW Automotive, Moog Aircraft Group and Caterpillar UK in the development of the course



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Residents offered check-up for homes



RESIDENTS in Dudley

RESIDENTS in Dudley borough are being offered a free home 'health check'.

The service is run by Dudley Council's home improvement team. They are encouraging homeowners aged 55-plus, who are struggling to organise or pay for essential home repairs, maintenance or adaptations, to get in touch.

People can discuss repairs or modernisation required

or modernisation required with experts from the council's home improve-

council's home improvement team.

Help and advice is then on offer with finance for the work needed, as well as the offer of a project management service.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member housing, said: "The service really can help people to improve their homes in a stress and hasslefree way. free way.
"The free home health

check aims to remind people that their home can have a that their home can have a major impact on their health and wellbeing". Dudley home improve-ment service is on 01384 817086.

Motorcycle club revs up for show

STOURBRIDGE Motorcy-cle Club holds its annual Custom Show on July 6, when there will be awards for the best in 10 classes.

The event, in its 15th year, will be at the River Rooms in Mill Race Lane, Stour-bridge

The award categories are: classic, trike, rat, street-fighter, chop, paint, scooter, Harley, custom car and best in show.

The show will include a disco, live music and a bouncy castle. Admission is £1. For information see the Stourbridge MCC Custom Show Facebook page.

Speed limit is to be slashed near schools

schools in the Dudley borough as part of safety measures to protect children, after the plans were passed by council

But opposition councillors are asking for a rethink, saying the moves could lead to traffic congestion.

Teachers, governors, parents and community leaders have called for speed limits to be cut on the busiest roads to improve safety for schoolchild-

safety measures on roads outside 11 schools initially.

schools initially.
Proposals presented to the council's cabinet last Thursday were welcomed by the authority's transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, and the group agreed to push ahead with the scheme.

But opposition Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said

the drawing board. Councillor Harley proposed that the

Connellior raney propose that the 20mph limits come into force only during school opening and closing times, for an hour at a time. "What we want is for it to be looked at again so that the 20mph limits are only in place for the school run," he

"This is so that it does not hinder poeple travelling at all hours of the day.

There's no need to have these speed limits at 7pm or 8pm for instance. There is no point having people caught in traffic. We'll be looking to raise the matter acrain." matter again.

Among the other items agreed at the Among the other items agreed at the meeting was a £1.3 million plan to convert the former Old Park Special School, in Corbyn Road, on the Russells Hall estate, as a base for both the authority's children's safeguarding unit and social work teams.



Councillor Patrick Harley

Demolition will signal start of work on hotel

DEMOLITION work is due to get under way on land earmarked for the construction of a £6 million hotel and restaurant development in Stourbridge.

Gevelopment in Stourbridge.

It comes after two fires at the site in Birmingham Street when arsonists set fire to piles of rubbish.

But developers said the fires had not set the Premier Inn project back, and the former Cox Hire building would be knocked down within weeks. Construction work is then expected to begin in the autumn.

autumn.
Arsonists stuck at the site, but no

Arsonists stuck at the site, but no damage was caused.

James Boyd-Wallis, spokesman for Premier Inn, said: "The fire hasn't impacted on the work taking place, and everything is still on track.

"The developer is just waiting for the existing utilities to be disconnected, and once disconnected, demolition is set to start."

As well as the botal there will be a developer.

As well as the hotel, there will be a Brewers Fayre restaurant with 122 car parking spaces. The 80-bed hotel will create 43 full-time and 22 part-time jobs. There will also be extra jobs during the hotel's construction

Historic

Historic

The site has been used for many years by Cox Hire Ltd but the firm has relocated to Netherton. Councillors have welcomed the development of the site.

Developers say more than 70 residents in Stourbridge were consulted about the plans and one letter of objection was received, regarding the plans not being suited to the historic townscape.

When the plans went before the council's planning committee in February, members heard that the only concerns raised by the Environment Agency were of possible contamination following the former Cox Hire site's use as industrial land, and minor flooding.

Stourbridge Township Council chairman Margaret Scott has backed the proposals, saying the development will be a welcome boost to the town.

Work is progressing on a Premier Inn hotel in Dudley. A topping-out ceremony last week marked the completion of construction. Now the inside will be decorated and furnished. The hotel at the Castlegate Business Park is to open at the end of next month, creating 35 jobs.

Couple won love at game of Monopoly



Roy and Janet Williams of Netherton, who are celebrating their diamond anniversary

IT was love at the first roll of the dice for Janet and Roy Williams who fell for each other while playing a game of Monopoly. And 62 years later the couple, who live in Netherton, have celebrated their diamond

wedding.
Mrs Williams, 81, said: "We were playing Mrs Williams, 81, said: "We were playing at my sister's home. Roy is my brother-in-law's cousin so that's how we met. We liked each other straight away. I thought if he lets me win at Monopoly he can't be that bad."

But Mrs Williams admitted she wasn't a bigMonopoly fan. She added: "I' ve never played again since that day."

The couple married at St. Peter's Church in Cradley on June 13 1953. During their working life, Mr Williams, 83, was in credit control and Mrs Williams did book-keeping and accountancy.

and accountance

Football

The couple have three surviving children, Stephen, Carol and Andrew. Another son, Michael, died when he was just one. They also have four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Mrs Williams said they enjoyed watching football and cricket together as Mr Williams is an avid Aston Villa fan.

To celebrate their wedding anniversary they hald a famil nearth.

they held a family party.

Mrs Williams said: "We have a happy life together. We have our ups and downs but we always talk everything through."



Roy and Janet tie the knot in 1953

999 service backs cardiac scheme

WEST Midlands Ambu WEST Midlands Ambulance Service has backed a campaign calling for the Government to make defibrillators mandatory in all schools.

About 270 pupils suffer cardiac arrests in UK schools each year and charity Sads UK has handed over a petition with more than 8,000 sig-natures.

lance spokesman said:
"The service fully supports
Sads UK with their campaign" A West Midlands ambu

Grand Canyon trek for chef Carl

A CHEF is getting ready for a challenging trek in the Grand Canyon in aid of charity.

Carl Bladon, aged 57, will be taking on the founday challenge in March, when he will trek 3,000th down the canyon in Colorado, and 40 miles back to the top.

Mr Bladon, of Quinton Avenue, Great Wyrley, plans to raise funds for the Have a Heart charity for disadvantaged children.

disadvantaged children

To sponsor Mr Bladon visit http://uk.virgin-moneygiving.com

Singing and acting at summer school

at summer school
YOUNG singers, dancers
and actors can take part in
a summer school in
Walsall.
Breakout Performing
Arts will hold the workshop from August 12 to 16,
from 9am to 3pm every day
at the Performance Hub at
the Walsall Campus of
Wolverhampton University. The week ends with a
performance. Details from
0790 5831508.

Cameras to keep watch at reserve

CCTV cameras have been installed at a Walsall beauty spot to tackle fly-tippers and thieves.

The cameras are Moorcroft Wood Lo Nature Reserve, Moxley, There were complaints about rubbish being

dumped there.

The move has been welcomed by campaigners.

Bridge project

WORK to strengthen a road bridge in Halesowen is nearing completion. The £300,000 project at the Rumbow bridge to carry heavier vehicles began in March. Workers are replacing the concrete deck and resurfacing the road.

ATTENTION

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WE ARE on holiday in Beer, Devon. As I write this, it's another sultry day on the beach, heat rippling off the pebbles and the sky as blue as a sailor's shirt. Trippers in shorts and sunglasses queue for the all-day breakfasts and chat lazily under the cafe umbrellas. It is worth recalling that the weather experts who last week hadn't a clue that this hot repullings coming are the same forecasters. this hot spell was coming are the same forecasters who are this week predicting washout summers for the next 10 years. So they can't get it right five

Tor the next 10 years. So they can't get it right five days ahead but they are quietly confident about 2023. Allow me to raise one eyebrow.

A MET Office spokesman on Radio 4 explained the difference between weather and climate. Climate is what you expect . Weather is what you get.

Americans and UK are now seeking peace talks with the Taliban. Isn't this what we used to call a defeat?

I LOVED the story about Adam Kirby, from south London who, at the age of two was found to have an IQ of 141. Mind you, his parents guessed he was a bit of a prodigy when Adam potty-trained himself at 23 months - having read a book on the subject.

reveals that Britons are consuming fewer calories but are two stone heavier than people were 30 years ago. So what's new? I recall my father, a builder, remarking in the 1970s on the shrinking size of the average labourer's lunch. Back in the 1950s, when men worked without the aid of brick hoists, cement mixers or dumper trucks, lunch on building sites was a big, calorie-packed meal of cheese or corned-beef sandwiches. By the 1970s it had shrunk to a bag of crisps and a Kit-Kat. We have swapped backbreaking toil for flabby bodies and most folk seem happy with the deal.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Museum loses £600k as visitor numbers fall

loss of £599,745 as visitor numbers plummeted by almost 50,000 in a year, its latest accounts have revealed.

restructuring costs and the

pension adjustment there was a net adverse movement

in funds before the actuarial loss on the pension fund, of £599.745."

£599,745."
The accounts showed the museum had a better year in terms of income from filming rights.
It made £26,385 last year compared with £3,640 the year before. Stars Jacqueline Bisset, Anthony Head and John Goodman filmed a neriod drams. Danging on

A fall in ticket sales and spending on site cost the museum £285,202 last year and a drop in donations and the value of assets added to donations and investments,

the value of assets added to its problems.

Bosses at the museum in Bosses at the museum in Jinton Road, Dudley, blamed the poor weather last year as they revealed the number of people through the doors – 249,574 – was 'well below' their target of 300,000 and down on 2011's 298,965.

Difficult

Details revealed in the Details revealed in the museum's annual accounts up to the end of 2012 show attendance fell 16 per cent compared with 2011.

The museum shed 26 of its 239 staff and closed twice week between November and Easter to save £250,000 a veer

and John Goodman filmed a period drama, Dancing on the Edge, at the museum.

Andrew Lovett, chief executive of the museum, said there were no plans for any more job losses but did not rule them out.

"We don't expect the headcount to change this year", he said. "However, as a 100 per cent self-funded charity, we have to be very aware of levels of attendance and earned income. and reaser to save 2200,000
a year.

In a report accompanying the accounts, chairman of the museum trust John Hughes, said: "Trading conditions were difficult in 2012.

"The merkedly reduced."

2012.

"The markedly reduced visitor attendance and lower levels of spend on site meant that, in common with many chargeable outdoor attractions, the museum sustained a trading loss of £285, 202.

"After reflecting depreciation charges prestricted" aware of levels of attendance and earned income. "The trading result for 012 was a loss of £285,000 due to a fall in visitor atten-dance, due to a combination of fragile economic condi-tions affecting consumer confidence and very poor weather."

tion charges, restricted

Kickboxers aiming for glory



Calum Pearson,15, and Tyler Cox, nine, from Quarry Bank, picked for England

TWO young kickboxing stars are aiming for

IWO young kickooxing stars are aiming for glory, having been selected to represent England in the world championships. Nine-year-old Tyler Cox, from Pedmore, in Stourbridge, has already bagged top honours including two world championhips and a European title. He has now been joined by his pal Calum Pearson, 15, from Quarry Bank, to take their challenge for honours to the ICO World Championships in

The pair, who train at Charlesworth Martial Arts gym, Birmingham Street, Halesowen, have been selected for the English kickboxing team which will fly out to Bulgaria for their world title shots. Tyler, a pupil at Hob Green Primary School, is a 1st Dan black belt. His father Darren said: "We are proud of him and he is looking forward to it."

Calum who attends Thorns Community College, is already England Open champion.

His father Glenn, aged 40, said: "I'm over the moon for him. To represent his country

Tyler and Calum teamed up to become tag-team champions in the South West Open in March

Group is tracing stories of the fallen

A GROUP hoping to gather the stories of Wall Heath's and Kingswinford's war heroes is now just a few names away from success.

Wall Heath and Kingswin-ford War Memorials Research Group is working to create a book dedicated to the men of the area who lost their lives in the two world wars

When they began their work in November the vol-unteers had 112 names from local war memorials to find out about.

Through displays, appeals nd hours of knocking on doors, the group now has just a few names remaining, said secretary Guy Marshall.

Particular help is needed with information about W Holden on the Kingswinford memorial from the Second World War; W Deeley from the First World War, who is possibly buried in Dudley; WSE Southall; W. Wilks or Wilkes; JT Williams, who may have been a miner, and F Willetts or Willets.

Mr Marshall said the group would have an exhibi-tion at Wall Heath Church of the Ascension Hall on Satur-day, Armed Forces Day.

Anyone who thinks they can help should call 07739572121.

A book with the stories of the men is hoped to be pub-lished by November next

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First time **buyers** are facing a long wait

FIRST time buyers in the West Midlands have been 'locked out' of the property

'locked out' of the property market for almost a decade because of a shortage of affordable homes, new research has revealed. Low earnings, high house prices, the cost of rent and spending on essentials are stopping people from saving the deposit to buy their first home.

The study by Shelter found that couples who start a family in their 20s could be saving for a deposit almost 10 years – nearly double the time faced by childless couples

This could mean their This could mean their children would be in secondary school before they own a home. Couples without a child face an average of five years of saving to buy a home in the West Midlands.

Single people in the West Midlands face the greatest struggle.

struggle

struggle. A single person could need more than 10 years to save enough for a deposit, trapping many in uncertain private renting or forcing them to live with their parents well into adulthood, according to the face of the same private the same privat according to the figures.

Couples with children in areas like Dudley and Walsall are facing a wait of nearly 11 years.

The number of affordable

homes completed in 2012/13 was down by 29 per cent from the previous year.

Boss of waste mountain m threatened with jail

given a suspended jail sentence for failing to get rid of a towering pile of rubbish in Brierley Hill that once reached 40ft.

Robert McNaughton, who is the boss at Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd, in Brierley Hill, was found in contempt of court because he failed to meet strict legal targets to clear the huge mound.

He has been warned his six-month jail sentence will be activated if he does not clear the site in Moor Street completely, by September 10.
Residents living nearby, including in new homes built on the old Royal Brierley Crystal site, have been demanding a clear-

up since 2009. But it took a more than a year of courtroom battles to force bosses to take action or face the threat of six months behind bars.

Danger

High Court judge Mr Justice Burton hit out at the waste management firm for creating a 'real eyesore and health danger' by failing to clear a towering rubbish pile at its

He said the suspended sentence would be activated on December 23 unless the rubbish was cleared.

He also banned any further waste being taken on to the site from July 10, at the High Court hearing in Birmingham.

McNaughton, the firm's former director Sharon McCann and the company itself were all found in contempt of court. No were all found in contempt of court. No further action was taken against McCann. Mr Justice Burton, during sentencing, said: "The real eyesore and health danger of the pile, quite apart from anything, concerns me. Injunctions have not only been made



The rubbish mound at refuse derived Fuel Ltd, Brierley Hill, seen near flats in Bague Walk. At its worst, it reached 40ft high

but undertakings given to the court and they have been flagrantly breached." Nick Cole, representing the Environment Agency, said the waste was around 19ft high

in places.

Yesterday's court action came after the resteracy's court action came after the Environment Agency claimed the firm had failed to keep to previous rulings. These included claims the firm had failed to remove half the waste, from around the front of the site, by March.

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Another previous ruling said rubbish should be cleared in full by July 10.

But McNaughton claimed in court that it would be impossible to meet that deadline because of lack of funds.

McNaughton, who was not represented, said he had already spent £60,000 in legal fees on the case and estimated the cost of the clearence would be £750,000. He cleared clearance would be £750,000. He claimed bad weather had scuppered the clear-up process. Giving evidence he said adverse

publicity was hitting his reputation with

customers.

When asked by the Judge why he had not complied, McNaughton said: "They - the Environment Agency - wanted us to move it to landfill but I need income to pay for land-

Mr Justice Burton ordered the defendants should pay the Environment Agency's legal costs. The figure has yet to be agreed.

Jobless toll after remploy closure

MORE than 1,000 disabled workers made redundant by the Government's decision to shut Remploy factories remain unemployed, new figures show.

Work and pensions minister Esther McVey said 1,522 people lost their jobs since the Department for Work and Pensions and Remploy announced the

Remploy announced factories were to close last

Jobs have been found for 462 employees and 386 are currently in work.

Firm hands over £25k donation

£25k donation

A TRAVEL company in Halesowe has raised more than £25,000 for a children's charity.

Acorn Venture in Prospect Road, has handed over the cash to Action for Children.

The money was raised from customer donations and takes the total amount donated from the company to the charity in 10 years to £130,000.

The charity organises adventure and educational trips for schools, youth groups and families in the UK.

Bingo invitation

A CHARITY bingo evening will be held for the children's ward at Russells Hall Hospital. Brierley Hill Mecca Bingo hosts the event on Satur-day. The £15 entry ticket will a meal, a glass of bubbly and a prize draw.

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IEWS FEATURE



HOW depressing that even the Girl Guides has fallen victim to the fashionable mantra of 'inclusivity' and dropped all reference to God and country from the movement' traditional pledge. The patriotic commitment to serving one's country has been replaced by one to the 'community'. New recruits will also pledge to "be true to myself and develop my beliefs". Who wrote this stuff? Carly Simon? Perhaps we should be grateful they are not expected to affirm

Perhaps we should be grateful they are not expected to affirm their belief in global warming. All this, of course, is just what you might expect from an organisation which is now led by Julie Bentley, the former head of the Family Planning Association. Bet she knows all about being prepared.

prepared.

BAFFLED by the return of Joe Kinnear as director of football at Newcastle United, former Toon midfielder turned Twitter philosopher Joey Barton has labelled the goings-on at his old club as a 'circus sideshow'.

Now would this be the same

circius sideshow'.

Now would this be the same Joey Barton whose idea of a Christmas party involves stubbing a cigar out in his teammates eye?

Apparently so. Other highlights of Mr Barton's career include breaking the leg of a pedestrian while driving his car, an altercation with a 15-year-old at a Bangkok Hotel, dropping his shorts at Everton fans at the end of a game, and putting his teammate Ousmane Dabo in hospital. In 2008 he was jailed for six months after admitting common assault and affray, and in 2010 he was banned by the FA for violent conduct after punching Blackburn Rovers' Morten Gamst Pedersen in the ribs.

There was also the incident during a game at Aston Villa where he celebrated a goal by raising his arm in the air and pointing to his moustache. He explained that this was because he had won a bet which meant he could now shave off his moustache. could now shave off his mous-

tache.

Of course it was. I mean what

Of ourse it was. I mean what else could it have meant? Not forgetting, of course, the incident last year, where he decided to round off the season in his own inimitable style. After being sent off for elbowing Manchester City's Carlos Tévez in the face, he decided to voice his disquiet by kicking Sergio Agüero in the back of the knee and attempting to give Vincent Kompany a Glasgow kiss.

As he was dragged off the pitch by his former team-mate Micah Richards, he attempted to square-up to that other shrinking violet. Mario Balotelli.

violet, Mario Balotelli. He was subsequently banned for 12 games by the FA and fined £75,000 after being found guilty of three charges of violent conduct. Newcastle United a circus show? They're rank amateurs,







Cat's perfect career as a star of American TV

Elizabeth Joyce looks at the rise of Cat Deeley, a Great Barr girl who is the toast of Tinseltown

SHE lives in a Beverly Hills mansion, graces the most A-list of red carpets and is held aloft as a fashion and beauty

icon.

But it wasn't all that long ago that Cat Deeley was playing clarinet with Sandwell Youth Concert Band and enjoying bonfire night parties in the back garden of her Sutton Coldfield home.

Cat, or Catherine Elizabeth Deeley as she was known back then, grew up in a quiet country lane and attended Grove Vale Junior School and then Dartmouth High, both in Great Barr.

Now, she's the toast of Tinseltown. It was 2006 that she jetted off to LA LA Land and has not looked back since.

A presenting gig for So You Think You Can Dance made her a household name in the States and the West Midlands-girl-done-good also landed jobs on American Idol and legendary breakfast TV show Good Morning America.

Shimmering

Shimmering

Shimmering

Her success was highlighted earlier this month when she stepped out on the red carpet of the third annual Critics' Choice Television Awards after being nominated for best presenter for So You Think You Can Dance, which she is now handling for the 10th series.

She made headlines at the event with her shimmering gold Monique Lhullier dress and those famous blonde locks, which have also nabbed her a lucrative deal with Pantene.

During her time in the States, Cat has also been romantically linked to Leonardo DiCaprio and had a long-term relationship with actor Jack Houston but it is comedian Patrick Kielty that won her heart. Check out her engagement



Radiant Cat at the television awards in Beverley Hills, California, this month

ring if you're in any doubt. And she and her hubby now live full time in her Bev-

her hubby now live full time in her Beverley Hills mansion – and a family may be the next thing on the agenda after they tied the knot in Rome last year.

"Look, it took us 10 years to get this far, so don't rush me!" she recently said. "But yes, I do think at some stage or another we would like a family."

Cat, 36, spoke about her marriage for the first time when she recently appeared on Jimmy Fallon's US talk show.

"There had always been a bit of a

ow. There had always been a bit of a

'thing' between us (her and Kielty), but it was never the right place, right time,

so nothing ever happened.

"Then it was my birthday and he called from Ireland to say hello and ask

called from Ireland to say hello and ask what I was doing.

"I told him I was going to the Beverly Hills Hotel for Sunday brunch, so he flew from Ireland to London, from London to LA, got a cab from the airport, dropped his bags with the concierge at the hotel and walked into the restaurant. No one does that stuff any more!" any more!

But for all the glitz and glamour of her life nowadays, she remembers her childhood in Sutton fondly, despite the fact she grew up as the only Albion fan in a family of Wolves supporters.

Growing up, her father Howard worked as a pattern maker for local car companies and her mother Jan worked in social security until Cat and brother Max were born.

She left Dartmouth Hieh with nine A-

She left Dartmouth High with nine A-She left Dartmouth High with nine A-grade GCSEs and a Grade 5 in clarinet. When she finished at Bishop Vesey sixth form she had four A-levels in history, maths, general studies and English literature.

English literature.

But her stunning good looks meant a career in modelling was almost inevitable.

She entered a modelling competition at The Clothes Show Live in Birmingat the clothes Show Live in Birmingham and was spotted by a booker for uber agency Storm, home to Kate Moss. Storm rebranded her as Cat and four years later she ventured into TV.

MTV soon latched on to her good looks and down-to-earth attitude and Cat went on to front a number of shores.

on to front a number of shows on the network, including MTV Amour, Stylis-simo, Hitlist UK and MTV Select.

Morning

It was through MTV that Cat got one of her most well-known and best-loved gigs – starring alongside Ant and Dec on children's Saturday morning TV show, SM:TV Live. Every week,

more than two million people tuned in to see the madness

people tuned in to see the madness unfold, with viewers going gaga for the likes of Wonky Donkey and Friends parody, Chums.

Cat moved on to host Stars In Their Eyes and Fame Academy alongside future hubby Patrick.

By now, she was a household name and the lure of America proved too much to ignore. Turned out it was the best decision of her life. Talk about the Cat that got the cream.

THROUGH

1983...

A COALMAN performed A COALMAN performed a back-breaking charity stunt for hospital patients by lugging a bag of coal almost the whole way from Wolverhampton to Cannock, John Tunnicliffe, from Cannock, raised about £200 after completing the 11 mile journey in three-and-a-half hours.

TWO schoolmates were cele-brating after copping top jobs in the West Midlands police force. Graham Jones and Richard Chidley were promoted to detec-tive chief inspector and detective superintendent respectively.

BREWSTER the accident-prone mongrel was at it again after a leg injury led to yet another trip to the vets. The lovable scamp from Stourbridge cost just £3 but ran up more than £400 in vets bills during a nine month period.

1993...

WOLVERHAMPTON pensioners joined thousands of protesters from all over the country to lobby the government against proposed heating taxes. OAPs descended on London to lobby Parliament about plans to put VAT on heating bills on heating bills.

A GRANDMOTHER from Wolverhampton celebrated scooping £800,000 on the football pools – thanks to advice from her 12-year-old grandson. Sixty-year-old Joan Wharton from Featherstone won the bounty after asking young Grant to pick some of her numbers.

A SCHEME to rid Wolverhamp ton's nightspots of violent bouncers was launched with the aim of improving the poor public image of door staff. The scheme required all 400 doormen working in the city to join a police and council-run registration programme and a training course.

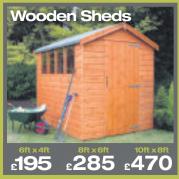
AUDIENCES were left asking "Sir" for more after a village youth theatre group performed the musical Oliver in Brewood. The popular production was staged at the Jubilee Hall and featured 27 members aged between 27 members aged between seven and 17.

WOLVERHAMPTON mayor's chauffer Bernard Ralphs hung up his uniform for the last time after years of dedicated service. The 61-year-old from Tettenhall retired after spending nearly 33 years driving the city's civic heads to official arrangements.

ANGRY residents in Wolver hampton were left with moun-tains of uncollected rubbish after tains of uncollected rubbish after hundreds of wheelie bins were left unemptied for a second time in two weeks. Overflowing bins lined the streets around Penn as crews continued to struggle with the council's new scheme.

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Let people vote on theatre's future

Various attended.

I am disgusted with DMBC. I know several councillors are in favour of keeping the Hippdrome, but I cannot understand the others. I ask anyone to go to the Hippdrome, walk around it, and not be impressed.

It is magnificent. If you don't get a sense of pride you're probably not from the Black Country.

How could anyone look at the Hippdrome walk around it, and not be impressed.

Why not ask the people to vote on the lipodrome's future.

The answer is obvious – people would you should I say keeping a low profile. I am disgusted with their behaviour.

The proposed destruction of our heritage has wrong written all over it.

How could anyone look at the Hippo-

Motorists

should try

eyes open

WHY don't drivers open their eyes when entering John Street, Brierley Hill, from the fire station end? At least twice a week I am

driving from my house up the street and I get shouted at by drivers, "IT'S ONE WAY".

John Street is only one way for a small section of the

You cannot turn into John

Street from Bank Street, but you can drive both ways in the street up until the one-

way sign.

If drivers opened their

eyes when entering from the fire station end of the street they would see no one-way

signs at all.

Oh, and please stoy driving at 70mph down this street. You know who you are, would you drive like that in your own street?

Mr Hutchins,

Brierley Hill.

keeping

This proposed destruction of our heritage has wrong written all over it.

If you are thinking regeneration

Gallack Coo
Avon Close
Pensnett.

SHAME on you Dudley Council. Over to drome then give the order to knock it 100 people attended a public meeting to save Dudley Hippodrome on June 9, zero councillors attended.

What incentive is there to destroy one of the greatest buildings Dudley and cars parked at the rear of the Hippodrome. I went to the Grand Theatre to see Ghost. It cost me five quid to park. Let's say just 100 of the greatest buildings Dudley and cars parked at the rear of the Hippodrome. the Grand Theatre to see Ghost. It cost me five quid to park. Let's say just 100 cars parked at the rear of the Hippodrome. That would mean £500 just for that night. The Hippodrome might not be full every night, but let's say it's busy for half a year. That's £90,000. How much will the other closed Castle Hill venues bring into Dudley at night? Garry Sawers.

Garry Sawers, (Black Country Gaz), Avon Close.

to the Editor **POST** E-MAIL

alesowen Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Visitors to garden were slow worms

had not been disturbed for over three years. Amongst the articles moved where several large ceramic pots. As I moved the last but one pot I recoiled at the sight of what I thought

It was in fact a slow worm. Pale in colour, but unmistakably a slow worm, not a small snake. Since then I have had two sightings of these creatures. One may have been the same one I had seen originally, but the other was much bigger.

I have been keeping an eye out for further sightings, but to no avail. But I have found strange markings in the soil and very small holes, holes which I had previously dismissed as small field mice holes, but on reflection they were far too

small.

When I had a pond in the garden I found the discarded skins of grass snakes, and had newts visit, but never slow worms. I thought this most unusual and would be interested if anyone else has had similar experiences.

J.D. Clifford,

Cost of the nanny party

NANNY Labour is alive and well in Dudley, and busy spending our money. I have had a Dudley

I have had a Dudley council employee at my door offering me a free pedometer, booklets on the best walks in the area, how to enjoy cycling, and how to get the best out of my car.

The same old Labour nanny dogma that got us into the present economic mess is alive and well and sitting in a council office in Dudley.

Alan M Etheridge, Catholic Lane, Sedgley.

Praise for NHS

THE NHS receives a lot of negative press but I can only give a positive account of the way I was treated.

From my arrival at Russells From my arrival at Russells Hall Hospital until my discharge two days later, and appointment with the fracture clinic, the standard of care was not only high but there was real commitment shown by all members of staff who appeared to be under an awful amount of pressure most of the time.

J M Taylor Rrierley Hill. J M Taylor, Brierley Hill.

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James and Rachel Casey celebrate their Employer Excellence Star award at The Waggon & Horses with, from left Jack Lewis, Dean Green and Nigel Cook

Pub shows star quality on training apprentices

getting an early taste of working life at a pub in the Midlands.

Miclands.

The Old Waggon & Horses, in Stourbridge Road, Ismere, employs two apprentice chefs and one apprentice barman.

Jack Lewis, aged 18, and Dean Green, 17, are in the kitchen, while Jason Lloyd, 22, is behind the bar.

The pub is employing the learners to assist their training. They work at the pub alongside training at college.

This month, the pub won an Employer Excellence Star for its work

with the apprentices at an awards ceremony held by Birmingham Metropolitan College .

award include BMW and Caterpillar.

Confidence

Front of house manager at the pub, Ann Underhill, said: "The work here does them all the good. They get to work alongside others, learn off them and grow in confidence. They also bring enthusiasm to the pub."

Mr Green works at the pub while also studying maths and English at Birmingham and Metropolitan College in Kidderminster. The pub was his

joined in February. He said: "I was really happy to get it

- not everyone my age gets the oppor-tunity to work as a chef. You get the chance here to learn while you get paid,

chance here to learn while you get paid, it is more practical and better than being just stuck in class."
Jack Lewis receives visits during his apprenticeship at the pub from tutors at Stourbridge College.
He joined three weeks ago. He said: "I'm enjoying the chance to be working in the kitchen at my age.

"You get the responsibility, which is only good for experience and confidence."

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Woodgate Lane / Bartley Green	08:12am	4:48pm
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Boss of JB's is to appeal after plans are rejected

Pedal power for Ella-Blu



Ella-Blu Williams with her new trike and from left, are her mother Clarke, teaching assistant Julie Corns and teacher Ceri Cowley SEDGLEY youngsters and their parents have rallied round to make sure disabled five-year-old Ella-Blu. She can have a tricycle. Ella-Blu Williams, who has cerebral palsy and has difficulty in walking, wanted to be able to ride a bike, just like all her chums. Generous pupils, parents and staff at Alder Coppice are brillian her they really look after heaven ally look after heaven all this money to help her."

rns and teacher Ceri Cowley
Northway, Sedgley, raised £1,000 for
Ella-Blu. She can have a specially
adapted trike, and there is £700 left
over for other items she might need.
Ella-Blu's mother Kerrie Clarke,
of Northway, said: "The other kids
at Alder Coppice are brilliant with
her – they really look after her. It's
absolutely fantastic they have raised
all this money to help her."

the boss of Dudley's revamped JB's nightclub after plans to host were thrown out.

Dudley Council planners refused the ret-rospective application earlier this year for a change of use for the nightclub because of

parking concerns.

JB's owner Ramesh Ahir confirmed he

JB's owner Ramesh Ahir confirmed he had appealed against the decision. The outcome is expected in October.

He had hoped that people going to his senue would be able to use Dudley Zoo's private car park. But the zoo's chief executive Peter Suddock objected, saying the club would not be allowed to use the car park. He said it was strictly for use of zoo customers and had restricted opening hours.

Planning officers, in a report announcing the decision on JB's plans, said the continued use of the venue for a mix of uses including a nightclub, banqueting suite and conference facilities, would raise 'significant highway safety concerns'. It was a retrospective application because the venue has operated as a banqueting centre since it reopened in September 2012.

Nuisance

In a letter to the Planning Inspectorate

Nuisance
In a letter to the Planning Inspectorate
which rules on planning appeals, Mr Ahir
said there were other long and short term
parking spaces available in Dudley town
centre, which his patrons could use.
He said: "There is no evidence to suggest
patrons have caused nuisance on any surrounding roads during the banqueting use
of the premises. The highway concerns
have not been realised."
Planning Inspectorate spokesman Peter

Planning Inspectorate spokesman Peter Rickett said the appeal would not require a hearing and would be dealt with through

hearing and would be dealt with through 'written representations'.

"We would anticipate a decision to be made by October," he said.

Mr Ahir reopened the former rock music venue last year after a six-figure revamp.









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A picture from the 1960s of Harpers bus in Armitage Road, Rugeley





A bus, date unknown, in a now pedestrianised area of Cannock town centre



Ex-driver Paul Roberts with his book on Harpers Buses

Ex-driver tells tale of his life on the buses

a career as a secondary school teacher to drive double-deckers is ensuring his passion lives on.

Paul Roberts has retained his love for Harpers buses and their

once the biggest private bus operator in Staffordshire, the company put Heath Hayes on the map as bus enthusiasts from around the UK visited its headquarters.

quarters.

Mr Roberts, aged 64, has now
published a hardback history of
Harpers featuring photographs he
took during his years with the firm.

He was teaching science and
geography at Springfield Secondary Boys School in Wolverhampton
in 1970 when he amblied to become

in 1970 when he applied to become

a part-time bus conductor with Harpers to supplement his teaching salary. After a 10-minute interview, he was told to report for duty the next day to conduct on the Bishops Wood route. Three years later, he gave up teaching to go full-time. "Some people like railways, I like buses," he said. "I left a good job but I loved buses so much, it wasn't a difficult decision. I never looked hack after leaving teaching."

a difficult decision. I never looked back after leaving teaching, "It was like On The Buses at times. I remember one chap, who was a bit the worse for wear, losing his false teeth on a late-night bus to Aldridge. "Tloved being out on the road and that mean the colly taking records

that meant not only taking people to work and school but on days out and holidays because the company also operated tours to the

coast."The former Dudley College student, who lived in Paget Road, Wolverhampton, and Ajax Close, Great Wyrley, stayed with Harpers until it was taken over by Midland Red in 1974 and continued under the new operator until his wife's job

took them to Leicester in 1986. The book focuses on the different buses and the routes covered, with a section devoted to the farewell trip and the early years under Midland Red, forerunner to Arriva.

Midland Red, forerunner to Arriva.
Harpers won the right to operate
buses into Birmingham in 1965.
From Bishops Wood, the route
went through Brewood, Gailey,
Cannock, Heath Hayes, Chasewater, Brownhills and Aldridge. Some
buses also went to Boney Hay and
Lichfield.
The book is printed by Irwell

Lichfield.

The book is printed by Irwell Press who can be contacted on 01525 876888.



The no. 28 make its way along Gentleshaw Hill, Cannock Chase



A bus going under the Handsacre railway bridge back in 1972

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Respected councillor is buried on his birthday

A thousand fish saved



Hundreds of fish are moved to a safer stretch of the canal. Picture supplied by the Environment Agency

THREE hundred fish were killed THREE hundred fish were killed but more than a thousand were saved after contaminated water from a major blaze at a nearby recycling plant in Kidderminster drained into a canal.

The Environment Agency has been pumping oxygen into the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal after levels dropped to one per cent

near the fire at Lawrence Recycling

near the fire at Lawrence Recycling in Stourport Road.

Officials have also caught 300 suffocating fish, which rely on water oxygen levels of up to 60 per cent, from the York Street Lock in Stourport and moved them from the affected 2km stretch.

Monitoring of the stretch is continuing.

long-serving Dudley councillor at his funeral, on what would have been his 76th birthday.

been his 76th birthday.

Farewells were said to George Davies by hundreds of mourners, including councillors, mayors and MPs, at Coseley's St Chad's Church yesterday.

Among the mourners was Dudley North MP Ian Austin and Coseley councillor Melvyn Mottram, who both read eulogies.

Mr Austin, who had been friends with Councillor Davies for 25 years, said: "He was a huge figure in his ward and helped thousands of families over the years.

"He represented Coseley with great pride and passion. He loved Coseley, he loved the people who lived here and worked so hard on their behalf."

people who lived nere and worked so hard on their behalf.

"I remember persuading him to have an answerphone so he and his family didn't have to deal with everything but he always ignored it and picked the phone up anyway.

"I learned so much from George as a young councillor—the hours spent talking about the council or politics. He also made a huge contribution to the fire authority.

"He was known throughout the council as an honest politician, a dedicated socialist and a man of legendary courage."

Councillor Mottram said: "George was a truly great man. He was a very friendly person and had friends from both sides of the chamber.

"He was hugely respected and held in high esteem. Politics ran in his veins. George said

"He was nugely respected and held in high esteem. Politics ran in his veins. George said things as they were and pulled no punches. He treated everyone the same."

Councillor Davies, who represented Coseley over five decades, leaves his wife Joyce, three children, seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

New choir is open to all

A NEW choir aimed at bringing people of all ages and background together has been launched in Sedgley. The Beacon community choir meets on Sunday evenings at Sedgley Community Church at 7.30pm.



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AN award-winning composer is hitting a high note in busi-

ness after opening his second shop in the Black Country. Music was in the air when, 10 years after opening Nathan Rose and Music in Skinner Street in Wolverhampton, Mr Rose cut the ribbon to his second store in Townsend Place in Kingswin-ford with Dudley Mayor Alan

Finch.
Mr Rose, aged 39, from
Wall Heath, said business was
desnite the eco-

Wall Heath, said business was very good despite the economic downturn.

Mr Rose said: "It's a dream to open the store in Kingswinford. It's my home patch."

He added: "We are in a recession, but parents will always find money to help their children's education."

Mr Rose employs 14 tutors for the business, offering tuition in vocals, drumming.

tuition in vocals, drumming brass instruments, violin and

Question mark over site as market closes down

closed indoor market in Brierlev Hill savs he is keeping an open mind about the site's

Shane Birch-Bastock announced earlier this month that the Concord Market, which opened more than 40 years ago, will shut on Saturday after revealing it was losing him £2,000 a

He blamed dwindling trade and an exit of stall-holders, including four who handed their notice in last month.

This week, Mr Birch-Bastock, who is also chairman of Brierley Hill Traders Association, said the site would be put up for rent, but said if the market did not attract courch intract has easily be a street or one of the said of the not attract enough interest he could be forced to redevelop.

He said: "The market is a huge site

and first I am marketing it for rent to find out what interest I get, if I don't find feedback is good I may look to

redevelop the entire site. These are early days and I've already had some people enquiring about taking it on, it's a case of waiting and seeing what happens next."

One group which has contacted Mr Birch-Bastock has suggested the market could be let out to community organizations rete-free

organisations rate-free.
This week, Mr Birch-Bastock said he

was also helping stall-holders move to other locations in the borough includ-ing his other market in Sedgley.

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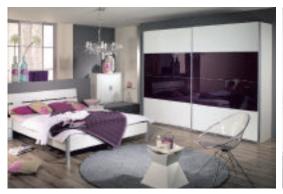


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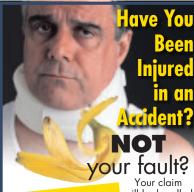


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Football plan given the go-ahead despite fears

earmarked for playing fields in Dudley has been given the go-ahead, despite concerns raised

oy residents.

An all-weather flood-lit pitch and a challenge course is planned as the next phase of Dudley College's town centre learning quarter.

Dudley College's town centre reasonage quarter.

There will be changing facilities and parking and it will be open to students, schools and the community.

The complex will be built to Football Association standards on playing fields next to Castle High School, Priory Road.

But the proposals have proved unpopular with people living nearby who fear their peace and quiet will be disturbed.

About 10 households raised objections.

Guarantee

They were also worried about potential

They were also worried about potential light pollution from the floodlights which will be installed and an increase in traffic. But Dudley Council planners recomended the proposals to councillors, and the plans were approved at a meeting this week.

week.
College principal Lowell Williams said:
"Working closely with Dudley Council, we have also agreed a usage plan to guarantee the facility will not cause any unnecessary

"The benefits the new football facility will bring to the town and local community are

Watery beauty spot trip

PEOPLE can take a ride along the Black Country waterways on a trip organised from a well-known beauty spot.

Members of the Bumble Hole conservation group are hosting the event from the Dudley nature reserve on July 30.

The trip starts at 10.30am from the Park Head Junction. People are asked to meet at the Bumble Hole Visitors Centre, Dudley. To book call 01384 814100.

New chapter for toy library



Marc Carter, Joy Clarke and Rachael Gardner from Insight to Carers, which has taken over the Phoenix Castle Mobile Toy Library

A VOLUNTEER-RUN service that provides toys and games for children in Dudley has been saved from the axe at the 11th hour after a charity stepped in to take it over.

The Phoenix Castle Mobile Toy Library, which is run by 20 volunteers, was due to close down, two years after losing £23,000 of vital funding from Dudley Council.

But bosses at the Brierley Hill-based Insight for Carers charity have announced they will be taking over the service which helps dozens of families in the borough.

The library lends hundreds of games and toys to children with disabilities and special needs in Dudley borough each year. A VOLUNTEER-RUN service that

borough each year. Volunteers take toys out to fami-

lies' homes in their own van, lending

lies' homes in their own van, lending the items for as long as they are needed.

It has operated for around 40 years and is believed to be the oldest of its kind in the country.

Insight chief executive Marc Carter said when he heard the toy

Carter said when he heard the toy library was struggling to survive he decided to step in to help. "This has been an invaluable service in the area for many years and we just couldn't see it close," he said. "Too many children would lose out." He said the service will be renamed the CHAOS! Toy Library and hopes to expand on the 30 families it currently supports. Carers wanting to talk to Insight can call 01384 483708.

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Residents furious over vandal attacks on cars



With a 'keyed' car are Countess Street residents and the general secretary of the neighbourhood watch Imran Aral

ANGRY residents say hundreds of cars have been

damaged by vandals.

The local neighbourhood watch group has sent out 'a rallying call to action', claiming the area has been plagued by repeated car vandalism.

Chairman of the Palfrey and Caldmore Neighbourhood Watch group, Mohammed Rafiq, says more than 500 people have been affected by the damage over the past decade. damage over the past decade.

"Residents have suffered years of amage to vehicles, including damage to

scratched paintwork, dents to bodywork, door mirrors knocked off, screws placed under tyres and damaged brick-work to properties," Mr Rafiq said. "We want those responsible put before the courte."

the courts.

"Residents didn't claim on their insurance when the damage was caused and paid for it out of their own pockets.

"But when people came to renew their in many their found were investigated."

their insurance they found premiums had gone up drastically. Some went up threefold due to all the damage and bad

"The victims of these crimes are "The victims of these crimes are hard-working families who have lawfully parked their vehicles outside of their homes expecting their vehicles to esafe. Someone out there knows who is responsible for this and I would urge them to come forward immediately." Mr Rafiq said roads affected included Milton Street, Countess Street, Earl Street, Thelma Street, Whitehall Road and Wednesbury Road in Walsall.

The watch group meets on Monday at 1pm at The Small Street Centre in Corporation Street, Caldmore.









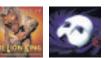
















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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply

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NEWS

Temporary car parking is available

TEMPORARY parking is being created for motorists visiting Haden Hill Leisure Centre while a new car park is being built.

Construction on a new fire station for Cradley Heath and Halesowen is starting, along with the new car park, on the site of the old Municipal Buildings.

old Municipal Buildings.
People can now park at
Haden Hill House in Haden
Hill Park, and at Old Hill
Tennis Club, Monday to
Friday 4pm-10pm, Saturdays Sam-1pm subject to
events, and all day Sundays,
also subject to events.

Laser combat zone is zapped by landlord's decision to sell

that attracts around 6,000 youngsters a year faces the axe, after the business and three other companies were given their marching orders by their landlord.

The businesses, which employ a The businesses, which employ a total about 30 people, are at the former Bronx factory site at the junction of Thorns Road and Dudley Road, Lye.

The land owners plan to flatten

the site so it can be sold. Given notice to quit by July 31 are laser combat centre Battle Storm HQ, its parent company Momentum Ltd, manufacturing company Bradbury International UK, and Triple C Costume Hire.

Costume Hire.

Momentum, which makes the laser equipment used by Battle Storm HQ, is hoping to find alternative premises. But Battle Storm is unlikely to be able to find other premises big enough, so five of its six workers will lose their jobs.

"It's a complete blow," said

manager Heien Morris, the only member of staff to keep her job as she also works for Momentum. "Despite being hugely popular with the public, we are being forced to close due to the landlord demol-ishing the building and forcing us,

and other tenants, out.
"There is very little protection

"There is very little protection for businesses suffering from such decisions by landlords."
Miss Morris, daughter of Momentum director David Morris, said that in October, the companies were given six months' notice to

31.
"We're desperately trying to find other premises for Momentum, which employs five of us, but there is little chance we would find any-where big enough for Battle Storm

HQ," she added.
Bradbury International UK and
Triple C Costume Hire have plans to move elsewhere

John Clarkson Hodgson, direc-r of Clarkson Properties, which was the site, declined to comment.



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Award joy for staff at skills centre

A PROJECT to get young people into training and work has been praised after scooping a top award.

The Skills Centre, run by Walsall Housing Group, has helped 51 people aged 16 to 18 and 19 to 24 on to apprenticeships and offers training in bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and other skills.

It was given the large preapprenticeship employer gong at the Walsall Works Celebration Awards.

The Skills Centre is working with 61 apprentices in a variety of trades and has helped 1,500 young people since its launch 10 years ago.

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Teams plot route to honour Christina



From left, Holly Lewis, Lauren Lewis, Catherine Bailey, and Harry Kingston prepare for their task with Harlequins Orienteering Club members Sebastian Mitchell, Alex Mitchell and Arthur Mitchell

Alex Mitchell an A HUNDRED days after her tragic death, dozens of people joined in an orienteering task in memory of schoolgirl Christina Edkins. About 40 people plotted their way around The Leasowes park as part of the event at the weekend. And the money they paid to enter went to a Christina memorial fund.

The popular 16-year-old died after being stabbed on a bus on her way from Birmingham to Leasowes High School in March.

Community

Community

The event was organised by Harlequins Orienteering Club, which holds orienteering events each month at parks across the West Midlands.

lands.
Organiser Adrian Bailey,
who used to teach French
and German at Leasowes
High School, said:
"Christina's death shook the
whole community here,
everyone was impacted by it whole community here, everyone was impacted by it



Popular Christina Edkins who was stabbed on a bus and many people want to pay respects to her.

"It seemed a good idea to use our monthly orienteer-ing event to raise cash for her memorial fund."

The teams were tasked with finding points in the park before returning to

About £50 was raised.

Rise predicted for number in work

EMPLOYMENT will rise in the West Midlands over the next five years, as private sector job creation overtakes a slide in the number of people working in the public sector, a

study has suggested.

Job cuts at local councils, quangos and other public sector

Job cuts at local councils, quangos and other public sector areas are likely to hit 74,000 by 2018 as a result of the Government's spending squeeze, says professional services firm PwC.

But it predicts 135,000 jobs will be created by new and existing businesses in the region, giving the West Midlands an overall increase of 2.5 per cent over the next five years.

Mark Smith, regional chairman at PwC in Birmingham, said: "The West Midlands economy is resilient and has been responding well to the economic situation. We have seen good growth in some areas of the private sector, which is boosting job prospects locally.

"In particular, businesses that have achieved strong growth as a result of their exporting activity are having a positive impact on companies in the local supply chain and to some extent this is helping to offset job losses in the public sector."

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SINGLE LADIES

MARIA petite curvy brunette, into keep fit, running, beauty, looking for nice genuine tall N/S guy with no ties for fun adult companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405099 🗒

SALLY 37 blonde blue eyed bombshell who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405203 ₿

PAULINE, passionate, intelligent, discial man of any age, call for more info Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 339087

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319 6

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black SHAZ 33 easygoing volluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819 €

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim. 62YR old female, widowed, Silian, 3 attractive, kind, outgoing, likes me out, dancing, holidays, nights seeking professional gent. Tel seeking professional gent. Tel I 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818 🗒

WOMAN 55vrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447

BLACK female 32yrs, 38dd, very curvy, sensual and looking for discreet curvy, sensual and looking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, looks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405269 €

DISCREET kind man sought by married lady, must be discreet and reliable as am I. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 355785

GALE looking for old fashioned man with old fashioned values to sweep me off my feet, enjoy adult fun times and maybe even more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405259 8

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243 ∄

MANDY friendly outgoing arty female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. Tel No: reciprocation guaranteed. Tel 1 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405229 🖺

VOLUPTUOUS big hearted brunette Maria, 36, loves music, seeks someone special to show her what she's missing. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 346785 JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

LOVING caring young 67vr old female 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651 €

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTM caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70 caring, loving and independent. Te No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317 🗒

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325 ₿

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429 8

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373 @

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918 €

SUSIE fun loving mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate to get to know better. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404627 🛭

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

TO REPLY TO ADS WITH @ TEXT THE BOX NUMBER TO SHORT CODE 63222. i.e. TEXT: 123456 to short code 63222

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. Tel 500 3955 Box No: 403947

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066

CURVY red haired female, been hurt Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807



LOUISE 43. 5ft 5ins, medium build. seeks male, 42-58. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308**

33YR old busty black haired, medium built, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 362478

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well-dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923 €

BIG bubbly black female, single mum. looking for male for nights in and out.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe . Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 304135

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 327579

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247 KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863

BIG is beautiful! Voluptuous, sensual female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel N 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528 🗒

LONG haired blonde 37 enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

CARING ladv. 52. brown hair/eves seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955
Box No: 392883

FUN loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 friendship, maybe more. Tel I 500 3955 Box No: 391135 🛱 FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-

60 to share a happy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169 €** BLACK attractive female, 34, slim

N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021 🗓

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207 ∰

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks male 26 41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388741

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753 🗒

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393

ANGIE 36, likes cosy nights in/out, country walks, sensitive, caring, loyal, spiritual, seeks male to share life with.

Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

50YR old female, seeks male for fun times and socialising. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 233580

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight oility, seeks genuine male for ance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box romance. Te

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013 EASYGOING down to earth female likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893 🗒

39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887 A

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH, who enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386615

LAURA 36, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384171

RETIRED widow, kind, caring, loyal, N/S, seeks gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

TRISHA 50, attractive, black, outgoing, thoughtful, caring, understanding, lil holidays, seeks similar loving gent. Te No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383073

SINGLE mum, 36, 2 children, seeks fun loving male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382595 €

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eves, seeks male, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 eyes, seeks male, 40-50. Te 500 3955 Box No: 382099 ATTRACTIVE 45yr old female, seeks

genuine, attractive male, 38-48 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388550 €

HOLLY 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTM nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380851 JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic,

likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380591

LOUISA looking for lovely, young male, 20-30's, easygoing for fun times.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380469

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906

SINGLE MEN

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PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet, naughty daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405699

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

MALE 45, 5ft 9ins, slim, caring, loyal, (SSOH, WLTM female, 35-45 for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402493

GARY 39 seeks female 30-50 for fun maybe relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404487

TALL blue eyed 49yr old gent, N/S looking for soul mate, slim lady with no ties and plenty of love to give and receive, is that you? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404121 ₿

SINGLE male 59, no ties, honest, loyal, serene nature, seeks mature female with the view to becoming lifetime soul mates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404527 🗐 GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks

MALE 39, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, caring nature, seeks similar female with view to permanent, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400703

JOSEPH 40 tall GSOH seeks female 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

MAURICE 50's, seeking N/S female ore. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52 trendy, honest, caring, down to earth fun loving, seeks petite lady, 45-54. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, broadminded, seeks bored female for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 372407

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, looking for nice

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157 🗎 🛍

ROUGH diamond 45 looking for older lady, the older the better, for fun times, you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404437

PATRICK 60's, single, sensual, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053

HANDSOME at HANDSOME attractive, fit, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 219790 €

BROADMINDED 42yr old male, GSOH, caring, loving good personality seeks female for fun friendship, relationship and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404623 ©

JOE 45 attractive me professional, GSOH, looking for the shades experience with likeming shades experience with likeminded lady for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404639 €

JEFF 60's, 6ft 2ins, fit, seeks genuine lady, mid 50-60's for genuine relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404837

RICHARD 48, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTM lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401431

CARING male looking for LTR with lady 50's-60's, 17stone plus. Tel N 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404585 🗒 MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view

to becoming soul mates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313 WARREN 60's, romantic, WLTM affectionate lady for evenings/weekend meetings and close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392191

29YR old male, likes holidays, cinema, clubs, seeks female for friendship and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403759 ₿

BLACK guy 67, feels 50, looks 40, fit active, seeks N/S, genuine, caring female with GSOH, 63-70yrs for LTR.

Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404255 ∰

RETIRED 45yr old male, likes travel home/abroad, eating out, WLTM caring lady for friendship, maybe more. Te No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404237

KIND caring gent 41. 5ft 11ins, fit build, WLTM similar lady for friendship, maybe more, likes music, the outdoors and eating out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404055 🗒

MALE 73yrs fit, N/S, OHAC, WLTM slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walking. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403895

ANDY 46, looking for female, 40 plus for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403869 ∰

STEVE 63, tall, fit, young outlook, likes travel, socialising, holidays, N/S, seeks local lady, 55-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402931

45YR old male, kind, caring, brown eyes, 5ft 7ins, seeks female, any a for fun times, maybe more. Tel 1 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404863 🗎

MIKE 43yrs, 5ft 10ins, short brown hair, blue eyes, loving, caring personality, very genuine, WLTM lady 20-40yrs for LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906** 500 3955 Box No: 403901 B

JOE 45, attractive, GSOH, medical professional, seeks open-minded female, 18-60 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet, naughty daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404929

MARK athletic build, slim, fair hair, blue eyes, easygoing, daft as a brush,

TALL dark, good looking male, 53 seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380

BRIAN single mature guy, Walsall likes sports, music, literature, WLTM West Mids lady as friend/lover. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403049 €

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slimmedium build, single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396709

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking curvy, scrumptious female for fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401737

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www.localgaydate.co.uk MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892 6

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School celebrates after winning Ofsted praise

school near Stourbridge are celebrating after a dramatic turn-around in its Ofsted rating from needing improvement to 'good'.

needing improvement to 'good'.

Just a year ago, inspectors found that Clent Parochial Primary School, in Holy Cross, Clent, needed 'significant' improvement to bring about rapid change to teaching in maths.

The latest report follows exceptional standard assessment test (SATs) results, where the school achieved the joint highest rate of progress for Key Stage Two in Worcestershire.

The Ofsted report states: "This is a good school. Leadership and management, including that of the governing body, are good. The head teacher has built a dedicated team whose members aspire to drive forward further improvement."

Head Christian Hamilton said: "We have focused on improving standards of learning and teaching, which has made a significant impact upon achievement, as well as constantly managing the progress of the children, and making sure those standards are maintained."

Chairman of governors Sarah Pearson said: "As a governor and parent I owe him. Chairman of governors Sarah Pearson

said: "As a governor and parent I owe him, his excellent staff, my fellow governors and our enormously supportive parents a huge debt of gratitude. "I am extremely proud of Clent School and our wonderful children."

Company raises £25,000

A TRAVEL company in Halesowen has raised more than £25,000 for a children's charity. Acorn Venture in Prospect Road, has handed over the cash to Action for Chilhas handed over the cash to Action for Chil-dren. The money was raised from customer donations and takes the total amount donated from the company to the charity over the past ten years to almost £130,000. The company organises adventure and educational trips for schools, youth groups and families in the UK.

Show for summer nights



Bottom, from left to right, Alex Lloyd, Rhiannon Luckins, Katelyn Laws, Emily Portch and Sebastian Robins with, at the top, Jen Laws, Richard Hall, Adam Smith, Mike Astley and Nora Blakeway as they prepare for Grease at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

GREASE is the word for a musical theatre group preparing to go back to high school for their latest show. Young stars of Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company are busy in rehearsals for their own version of hit film musical Grease next month.

Performers are rehearsing as T Birds and Pink Ladies to their heroes John Travolta and Olivia Newton John.

The show will be atBrierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street, on July 19 and 20. Shows on both nights start at 7.30pm with a 2.30pm matinee on

the Saturday. The company, which has around 100 members, stages four shows a year, including an annual pantomime and West End

Young actors from the company's youth group, aged from nine to 21, are taking part in the production of

Many have been picking up their own accessories to personalise their outfits and have promised bright costumes to dazzle the audience come opening night. Parents have also been mucking in.

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park for TV show

TV stars descended on West Midland Safari Park to film a new crime drama. The park's Spring Grove House, which is used as a wedding and conference venue, has been trans-formed to look like the inte-rior of a Colombian Embassy for new BBC series By Any Means.

for new BBC series By Any Means.
Filming is taking place at the Bewdley venue for the drama, which features Gina McKee, star of Our Friends in the North, The Borgias and In The Loop, and Warren Brown of Luther and Good Cop fame.
Shelley Conn, known best for her role in Marchland, and Andrew Lee Potts, of Primeval and Ideal also star in the series.
The show follows a group living on the edge of the law and playing the criminal elite at their own game.
Living in the shadows, the maverick team bridge the grey area between the letter of the law and true justice.
The drama is to be aired this

The drama is to be aired this autumn on BBC 1.

Sale at church

A SECOND-HAND book sale will be held at a Hale-

sale will be held at a Halesowen church this weekend.
Cream teas will also be on sale at Hurst Green
Methodist Church, on Narrow Lane, on Saturday from 2pm.
The money raised will go towards the church. Entry is free.

Stars out Hopes high as revamp of at safari market gets the go-ahead

MULTI-MILLION pound plans to transform Dudley's historic market place have been given the go-ahead.

The scheme is being heralded as a major milestone for the town's long-awaited

milestone for the town's long-awaited regeneration.

Five schemes, all linked to rejuvenating the market place, were approved at a meeting on Monday night.

It comes hot on the heels of other projects to revamp Castle Hill, restore heritage buildings and tempt a major supermarket to open in the town.

Regeneration chief, Councillor Judy Foster, thanked market traders for helping shape the plans.

shape the plans.

She said: "The market place is the centre-piece of the town and a focal point for many people.
"It is important that the market looks good and attracts not only new customers but also new business."

The initial plans sparked opposition from traders who raised a petition against them. Talks have been held to find a resolution.

Credit

Further talks are planned between council officers and the traders.



An artist's impression of how the market place in Dudley could look after the long-awaited revamp

Council officers and the traders.

But Councillor Foster said: "It is credit to the council officers and the market traders who have been able to sort any issues or corens ahead of the committee."

Dudley Market Traders Association spokesman Len Lenhan said discussions were continuing and he hoped to resolve the rissues at a meeting in Dudley.

Councillors on Dudley Council's planning committee welcomed the plans, worth at least \$6\$ million.

Among the five schemes linked to the solve of the council officers and the traders.

But Councillors did aks for budley Castle. Permission was also granted out or eposition the Duncan Edwards' statue to replace the market place. Listed structure consent was also granted to reposition the Duncan Edwards' statue to replace the market place in Dudley Castle. Permission was also granted to reposition the Duncan Edwards' statue to reposition the Duncan Edwards' statue to replace the market place. Listed structure consent was also granted to reposition the Duncan Edwards' statue to replace ment to reposition the Duncan Edwards' statue to replace ment follows as to enhance the Earl of Dudley darker to reposition the Duncan Edwards' statue to reposition the Duncan Edwards' sta

Duncan Edwards' statue

Former teacher is Labour

A FORMER school teacher from Cradley Heath has been selected as the Labour Parliamentary candidate for Halesowen and Rowley

Regis.
Stephanie Peacock, aged
26 now works for the GMB
union in Halesowen and
before that she was a history

Before training to be a teacher she worked for the previous Labour MP Sylvia Heal.

Her family live in Blackheath, her father works in a care home and her mother in the NHS.

tare nome and ner mother in the NHS.

Ms Peacock, who now lives in Cradley Heath, said:
"I am hugely honoured to have been selected as Labour's candidate.
"It is a special place for me. I grew up here. What happens here matters to me. i"I'm going to fight for our community. I'm going to be on their side on the issues that matter to them.
Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, added: "Stephanie will be a fantastic Parliamentary candidate."

Concert date

THE Langley Band performs its next concert at The Public arts centre in West Bromwich next month.

Summer Brass will be staged on July 7 at 7pm and tickets at £8 are available from the box office on 0121 5337161.

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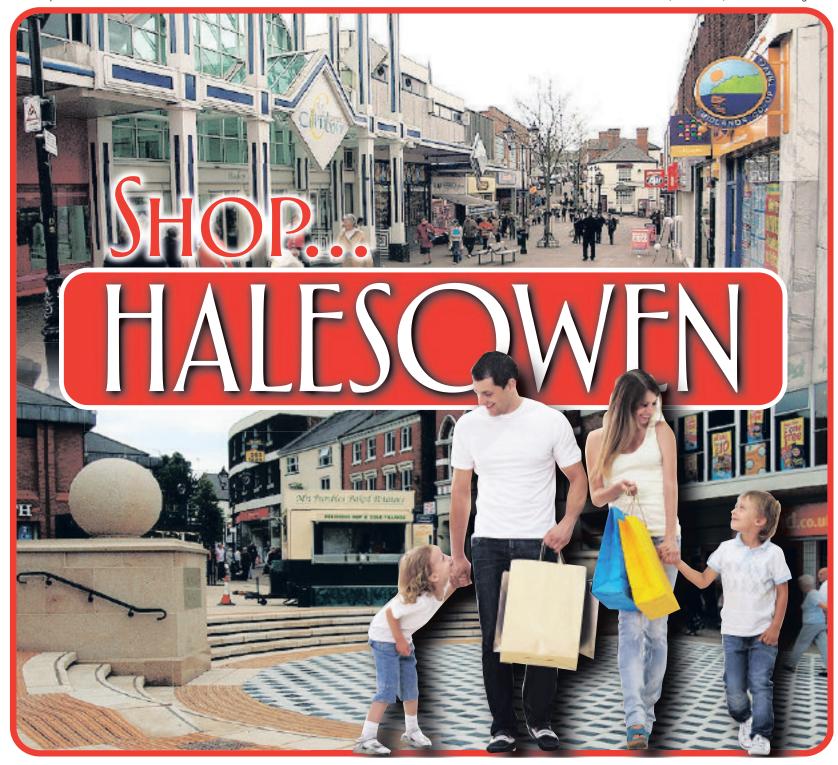
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иMERCIAL FEATURE



Growing pet store kicks off new range THE Big Pet Store is currently can be discussed in the store. We cater With opportunition

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for your pets.

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the specific requirements for your pets

undergoing a refit to increase the for not only the normal common house-involved with pitch board sponsorship level of items and stock available to hold pets but also for those that may be and various other opportunities the deemed a little unusual.

Discuss

And we have a range of food items and insects for our tropical friends. We are happy for you to call into our store to discuss your needs personally.

The Big Pet Store is also proud to be the sponsor for Halesowen Town FC.

and various other opportunities the store is working to build the strength and support for the local team. Season tickets for 2013/14 season are now available.

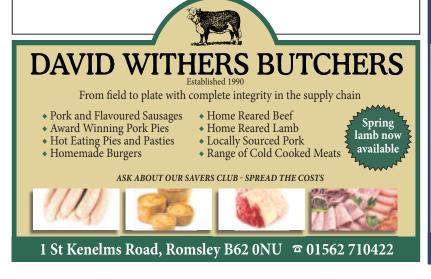
Ticket prices have been frozen once again and the Yeltz have introduced an U12s go-free category with any accom-panied adult or senior to encourage junior supporters.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Where businesses offer choice and great service



Long Lane - a straight route with a great number of local businesses



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RUNNING virtually paral-lel with the M5 North, Long Lane (or the A4034) at the top of Mucklow Hill is a straight run from the roundabout at Streetbike all the way into Black-

neath.

Along the route are a great number of local businesses that offer a huge variety of products and services.

and services.
Like many areas in our region it
has had to change and adapt to the
financial climate and social
changes that progress dictates.
The ones that remain are now
part of the fabric of The Lane and
remain devoted to providing the
locals and visitors to the area with
the best products and services the best products and services

Like all businesses fighting to survive they rely on the local effect.

Thrive

A recent analysis highlighted that over 76 per cent of people spend more than 50 per cent of their income within a five mile radius of their home.

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So whether you are looking for So whether you are looking for an electric motorcycle that will do 90mph, or a lesson in aerial ribbons or pole dancing, a brand new mountain bike or a game of snooker, then pop along to Long Lane and have a look at the options.

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for pub

CHRISTMAS has come early for one Blackheath pub which will host a Christmas

which will host a Christmas party today (Thursday). The Knights Quest, in High Street, was serving a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings from about noon.

Landlord Jane Lloyd said: "We always hold a Christmas party in the summer and why shouldn't we? Everyone loves getting into the spirit. "During the winter months we usually have a beach party too which is also great fun."

There were carols, decora-tions, a Christmas tree and karaoke at today's event.

Library's invite

TWO free Craft and Chatter days are being held at Cradley Heath Library on July 10 and 24. People can bring craft materials to work on while they chat. The two-hour session

The two-hour session starts at 10.30am at the library in Upper High

Bake Off event

BUDDING bakers are being invited to rise to a cookery

challenge in Cradley Heath.

The Big Bake Off will be held on High Street on July 20 from 2pm to 6pm. Bakers of all ages can bring along their cakes for the chance to win prizes. The high street will close from 11am for the

Christmas Campaigners' new action group aiming to clean up

action group to help clear Cradley of rubbish.

The Cradley Community Clean-up Group will have its first day of litter-picking on July

will have its first day of litter-picking on July 20.

Volunteers will meet at The Laurels club in Windmill Hill, Colley Gate, to tidy the High Street from 10am to noon.

The organisation, which is an extension of the recently-formed Cradley Action Group, is calling for people to join in.

Everyone taking part be provided with high-visibility jackets and litter-pickers.

CAG founder Chris Legiewicz said: "We have had a lot of responses from the public, but we still really need more volunteers. "Some areas are really bad. It's mostly just beer cans and takeaway wrappers, but in some places there are even needles.

"We want to feel proud to live in this area, so we need to educate the people who drop the

so we need to educate the people who drop the

Ownership

"Love where you live – that's our motto."

The group is being supported by Stourbridge MP Margot James and Dudley Council.

Councillor Peter Lowe, deputy leader of the council, said: "They are taking ownership of their companies of the council, said: "They are taking ownership of their companies and trainer to improve it."

their community and trying to improve it, which is admirable.

"We will certainly be working with them to ensure the first clean-up day is a success. "I have worked with other similar groups in

other areas and we are hoping this one can take off with help from community-minded

To express and interest or for more information, contact the group through its website, http://cradley.org

Club members on target for milestone



Members John Hale and Tony Portman with Cedric Walters, secretary, enjoy their green

MEMBERS of a Cradley social club are bowled over at the 100th anniversary of their

green. The Laurels Club in Colley Gate will mark the centenary of its bowling green with a bar-becue and competition, with cash prizes up for grabs, on

cash prizes up no game, or Saturday.

The club opened on Windmill Hill in 1912 and opened its green the following year. It now has more than 400 members, as well as four bowling teams with a total of 30 nlavers. 30 players

Socialise

Club committee member Richard Legiewicz said: "In these very difficult economic times, we are very pleased that the club is doing so well and that people are coming in to be comfortable, socialise, and

comfortable, socialise, and enjoy themselves with friends and family."

Bowling club secretary Cedric Walters added: "We would like to thank the members for their hard work

members for their hard work around the green. Here's to the next 100 years." The barbecue will begin at 10am. Competition entry costs £3 at the club. Registration closes at 9.30am.

Event is break for wannabe rock acts

THE Black Country has been the birth place of some of some of the UK's top rock acts – a tradition it hopes to continue with a concert in Cradley Heath.

Cradley Heath.
This is the fourth year
that Haden Hill House and
park have hosted Opportunity Rocks concert.
The event gives young
indie, rock and pop musicians and singers a chance to
perform live in front of a

perform live in front of a large audience.

The event will take over the park in Halesowen Road on July 7 and organisers are still looking for bands to take park. stili 165 take part. Talent

Cabinet member for high-ways and environment Councillor Maria Crompton said: "In previous years we have had some amazing young talent on stage that I am sure will go far in the future

"The event is a great opportunity for young bands

to get up and perform."

The day of events starts at 11am and continues until 6pm.
It is free to enter for par-

ticipants and audience members.

members.
There will also be a local guitar shop showcasing its wares, a body art stall and an inflatable assault course for the energetic.
Anyone wanting more information should ring 01384 569444.

Independent Family Funeral Directors

Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd, formally known as J.E.W. Hickton & Sons are a long established Funeral Directors based in Cradley Heath.

In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local counsellor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath in the Black Country, His son William 'Bill' Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors.

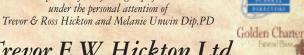
Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2007 and is now working closely with his father in the day to day running of the business and conducting of the funerals in the long established family business still located in Lower High Street. In late 2008 Trevor and Ross took over the running of R. Hadley Funeral Services in Halesowen. Carrying on the established business to the same standard and code of practice that of T. E. W. Hickton & T Hadley & Co. Trevor's other son Greg joined the business

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Firm aiming high with £1m staircase contract

metalworking company in Netherton, Glazzard (Dudley), has won a prestigious £1million contract for the Wellcome Trust.

Wellcome Trust.

The contract includes a unique parabolic spiral staircase, which will be made from mild steel at Glazzard's Washington Centre factory, and installed at Wellcome Collection, a cultural venue in Euston Road, London. The staircase is part of a major £17.5m development to create new galleries and spaces at the venue.

Stirling Prize-winning architects Wilkinson Eyre Architects are transforming Wellcome Collection with the development, due for completion in the summer of 2014.

Glazzard sales director Rob Wood said: "It will be the biggest single staircase in terms of value that we have ever produced. Weighing over 16 tonnes it will rise 9.7 metres from the ground to second floor."

second floor."
Foundation

Design work has just got underway and the construction is due to take five months, with installation programmed to start early in the new year. The outer surface of the staircase will feature a shot blast and clear lacquer finish with the inner

lacquer finish with the inner balustrade featuring hot sprayed polished stainless steel.

The Wellcome Collection was created by the Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation, to explore the connections between medicine, life and art. Glazzard was created in 1970 by Ray Glazzard – father of current managing director Andrew Glazzard. It has been at its main base in Netherton, where it has a 20,000sq ft factory divided into two work bays, since 1990. two work bays, since 1990

It has also retained its Windsor



An artist's impression of how the staircase being built by Glazzard will look

Works in Halesowen Road from its orig-

works in Halesowen Road From Its Orig-inal three sites in the Black Country. The company has worked on major projects including London skyscraper The Shard, the new Wembley Stadium

and Asot racecourse.

It is also involved in producing metalwork for the New Street railway station re-development in Birming-

ham.
The company, which employs 95, looks to achieve annual turnover of between £6m and £9m. Glazzard's

expertise in metalworking is in demand all over the UK.

It has completed many prestige projects over the last two decades including staircases and balustrades for the RAC's headquarters at Bristol and 20 helical staircases for the Inland Revenue offices at Nottingham.

It also did work on major projects like the re-development of Lords cricket ground in London, the Bull Ring shopping centre in Birmingham and

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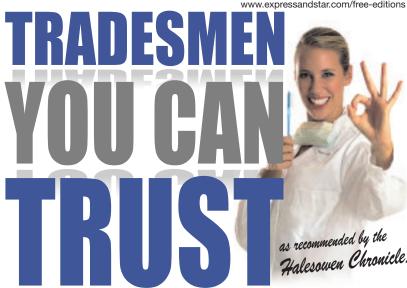
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What's On! Halesowen

Songwriters in



Singer Dale Hanson, of Damn The Weather

SONGWRITERS will be picking up the microphone for a night of live music in Bloxwich to raise cash for charity. Music lovers can head to

Music lovers can head to Bookmark Bloxwich, in Elmore Row, on July 6, for a special Songwriters Night.
Money raised will go to young people's autism charity Kidzlikedanny.
Canadian country singer and songwriter Chuck Micallef will be performing and will compere the show alongside songwriter and comedian Tony Barrett.
Mod-influenced singer

Mod-influenced singer and songwriter Dale Hanson and singer Matt Tyler will also be on the bill. For tickets call 01922 655900.

Songwriters in concert to help autism charity Second city swings to the many varied sounds of jazz

BIRMINGHAM Jazz andBlues Festival is back to bring the many and varied sounds of jazz to the second city with some 150 international acts performing at more than 80 venues – and most of the gigs will be free

Young blues star in gig

AWARD-WINNING blues AWARD-WINNING blues singer and guitarist Chantel McGregor is in concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Wednesday, July 3. Chantel was voted Young Musician of the Year in the

Musician of the Year in the British Blues Awards 2011, Female Vocalist of the Year the following year and hasbeen nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year and Guitarist of the Year and Guitarist of the Year in 2013.

She has jammed on stage with guitar legend Joe Bonamassa on two of his tours and won acclaim in her own right as a formidable guitar

right as a formidable guitar player, talented singer-song-writer and exciting live performer.

Tickets cost £11 in advance or £13 on the door. Call 01902 401211

With 200 gigs taking place between Friday, July 5, and Sunday, July 14, there is plenty of music to appreci-ate. Some of the artists to watch out for include acclaimed violinist Tim Kliphuis from Holland, young Lithuanian band Sheep Got Waxed, Canadian singer Melissa Lauren, Chicago-born but Brum-based singer Bobby Woods, Spain's Potato Head Jazz Band and Irish singer-songwriter Grainne Duffy. Old favourite include the

Old favourite include the Black Country's jump jive veterans King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys, Steve Gibbons Band, Old Hill rock and roller Ricky Cool, Val Wiseman, trombonist Roy Williams and festival patron Digby Fairweather with his martet

quartet.
The British Jazz Awards return to their home city at St Paul's Church in the Jewellery Quarter on July 10.
See www.birminghamjaz zfestival.com for details.



He just can't wait to be king - Nicolas Nkuna plaving Simba in The Lion King

REVIEW

Giselle, Birmingham Royal Balle

THE Birmingham Royal Ballet must surely be the best in the world as their current interpretation of the classic, Giselle, at the Birmingham Hippodrome,

demonstrates.

The audience was treated to a delight of stunning scenery, breath-taking technique and exquisite choreography, perfectly relaying the story of the beautiful Giselle, who is driven to take her own life for the sake of love.

The Rayal Rallet Suff.

The Royal Ballet Sinfo-nia, under the instruction of musical director Koen Kessels, radiates spectacularly throughout the theatre, transporting you straight into this enchanting tale and then on to a magical journey through dance.

Emotional

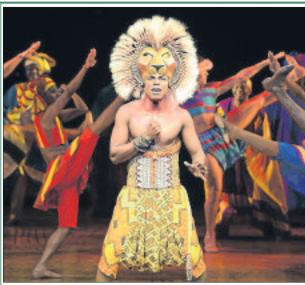
Close your eyes and every note rings clear as a bell.

bell."
The coupling of Jenna Roberts in the title role and Iain MacKay as Count Albrecht is very special indeed, as they effortlessly glide together with grace and poise, performing exceptionally strong lifts and displaying an obvious emotional connection. emotional connection.

emotional connection.
One of the highlights of
the production is a long
series of sharp entrechats,
executed with ease by Mr
MacKay.
The couple's performance provoked impromptu

bursts of applause.

Alison Norton



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Lion King

roars in for

summer

DISNEY'S The Lion King is one of the biggest productions to be staged at the Birmingham Hippodrome. Due to its spectacular costumes, puppets and scenery, it takes a convoy of 23 46ft-long trailers to transport. The Lion King from one city to the next on its UK tour. The Lion King, adapted for the stage from the hit animated movie, comes to the Hippodrome on June 29 and runs for almost three months, to September 28.

The award-winning

months, to September 28.

The award-winning
musical by Elton John and
Tim Rice employs 150 people
and 40 are local. There are
50 performers from 17 countries, supported by a backstage team of over 100. More
than 25 different types of
animal are represented in
the show which opens with
hit song Circle of Life.

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SATURDAY'S TV 29.06.13

CHOICE



John Inverdale

Today at Wimbledon BBC2, 8pm

John Inverdale presents action and reaction from the sixth day's play at the All England Club, focusing on the scheduled conclusion of the men's and ladies' third-round singles. The top seeds had things pretty much their own way on day six last year, with the likes of Juan Martin del Potro, Serena Williams, Andy Murray and Petra Kvitova all progressing to the fourth round. Despite a relatively wet beginning to the tournament, the schedule was back on track by this point in 2012, with all of the third-round singles matches completed.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 12.15 Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Qualifying. 2.20 Wimbledon 2013.

6.10 BBC News; Regional News;

- BBC News, regionlan News, Weather, Gas Celebrity Mastermind. With Sarah Storey, Nihal Arthanayake, Dan Walker and Marint Lewis. Last in the 10 Pointless Celebrities. One-time of the Niham Starah Stara
- Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by John Partridge.
- 8.40 Casually: Tom and Sam
 Casually: Tom and
- Film: Die Hard with a Vengeance. (1995) New York cop John McClane pursues a terrorist threatening to set off a series of bombs around the city. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson and Jeremy Irons.
- 11.50 Film: Tombstone. (1993) Western, with Kurt Russell. 1.50 Weatherview. 1.55 BBC News.

BBC₂

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.40
Formula 1: British Grand Prix—
Practice One. 8.15 Formula 1:
British Grand Prix—Practice Two.
9.55 Live Formula 1: British Grand
Prix—Practice Two.
9.55 Live Formula 1: British Grand
Prix—Practice True; 11.05
Wimbledon 2013. 4.00
Glastonbury 2013.
6.00 Wimbledon 2013. Further
like Company 2

decided. **

8.00 Today at Wimbledon. John Inverdale presents action and reaction from the sixth day's play at the All England Club, tocusing on the scheduled conclusion of the scheduled conclusion of the men's and ladies' third-round singles.

singles.

9.00 QI. Guests Robert Webb,
Phill Jupitus, Ronni Ancona
and regular panellist Alan
Davies join host Stephen Fry,
who asks questions about
hypnosis, hallucinations and
hysteria. (R)

Mock the Week. Gary Delaney, Holly Walsh and Josh Widdicombe join regulars Chris Addison, Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. (R)

10.00 What a Load of Buzzcocks. Music news stories and highlights of the comedy quiz from 2005. (R)

quiz from 2005. (R)

10.30 Glastonbury 2013. Lauren
Laverne, Mark Radcliffe and
Jo Whiley present coverage
of the festival, headlined
tonight by the Rolling
Stones. Plus, highlights of
Elvis Costello and Primal
Scram

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.15 Jake and the Neverland Prates. 6.25 Poppy Cat. 6.40 Coppy Cat. 6.30 Canimals. (R) 4.00 Poppy Cat. 6.40 Coppy Cat. 6.30 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Aimost Naked Animals. (R) 7.35 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.00 Gravity Falls. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Dinner Date. (R) 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 10.15 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 10.15 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.5 ITV News; Weather. 11.20 Saturday Farm. 12.20 River Monsters. (R) 1.20 Film: Holiday On the Buses. (1973). 3.00 All Star Mr. & Mrs. (R) 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 6.00 Regional Programme;

- 6.00 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.15 ITV News; Weather.

- ITV News; Weather.
 You've Been Framed!
 Comical clips, including a
 dog-versus-crocodile
 showdown. (Fam ed!
 Humorous footage, including
 a skateboarding Santa Claus.
 Your Face Sounds Familiar.
 New series. Alesha Dixon
 and Paddy McGuinness host
 a live entertainment show in
 which six celebrities
 impersonate randomly
 selected music icons in a bid
 to win money for charity.
 All Star Family Fortunes.
- to win money for charity.

 8.45 All Star Family Fortunes.
 New series. Casuality's
 Patrick Robinson and Big
 Brother's Bit on the Side cohost Rylan Clark team up
 with their families to win
 money for charity.

 9.45 The Americans. The
 Jennings try to defeat a new
 FBI surveillance system.

 10.30 ITV News; Weather.

 10.45 Film: Space Cowboys.
 (2000) Adventure, starring
 Clint Eastwood.

 1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 In Plain

1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen

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CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 W Racing Cup. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 India 10.30 Prayler. (R) 10.30 Prayler. (R) 10.30 Prayler. (R) 11.30 Prayler. (R) 12.30 Press (R) 13.30 Press (R) 12.30 Press (R) 12.30 Press (R) 12.30 Press (R) 13.30 Press (R) 1

7.00 Come Dine with Me. A week of dinner parties in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, featuring an

American-themed evening, a Wild West-style bash and unusual delicacies including ostrich egg and pig's ears.

(R)
Grand Designs. Kevin
Grand Designs. Kevin
McCloud follows the
progress of south London
progress of south London
tuner, who want to build
a home that resembles a giant
stack of glass cubes. (R)
The Million Pound Drop
Live. Davina McCall presents
the quiz show in which
contestants are challenged to
place large quantities of cash
over trapdoors as they face a
series of questions.
(F)
Film: Patriot Games. (1992)

series of questions.

10.30 Film: Patriot Games. (1992)
Former CIA agent Jack Ryan
foils an assassination
attempt by an IRA splinter
group, killing one of the
terrorists in the process.

ferrorists in the process.
Thriller, starring Harrison
Ford, Sean Bean, Samuel L
Jackson, Richard Harris and
James Earl Jones.

12.50 Paddys Tv Guide. (R) 1.35
Just Around the Corner. (R) 2.05
The Million Pound Drop Live. (R) 3.45
Handmade Treasures.

CHANNEL 5
6.00 Milkshakel 10.00 Power Rangers Samural. (R) 10.35 ThunderCats. (R) 11.00 Highland Emergency. (R) 11.30 Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) 12.35 CS: NO. (C) 11.30 Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) 12.35 CS: NO. (C) 10.40 Cyd 4.50 Film: Zulu Dawn. (1979)
7.00 5 News Weekend.
7.10 The CSI Movie: Crisis. A government weapons truck is hijacked as part of a plan to allow a criminal to escape from jail. Feature-length episode of the crime drama, starring David Caruso.
8.45 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the second coverage of t

- contestants.

 10.00 Big Brother's Bit on the
 Psych. AJ Odudu is joined by
 a panel of psychologists and
 celebrity fans to analyse the
 housemates' behaviour.
- housemates' behaviour.

 1.00 The Walking Dead. New series. A prison provides an opportunity for the survivors to establish a new base camp, but they find it is not uninhabited. Postapocalyptic drama, with Andrew Lincoln.

Andrewy Lincoin II.

11.55 Inside Hollywood. Magazine show, with location reports. show with location reports. show business news and views from behind the scenes in Tinseltown.

12.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 4.50 Angels Tiller. (R) 5.20 Angels Olarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Laura Mvula & Noah and the
Whale @ Glastonbury 8.00 Ben
Howard & Maverick Sabre @
Glastonbury 9.00 Two Door Cinema
Club & Example @ Glastonbury
10.30 Chase & Status Live @ stonbury

Listings supplied by Press Association

BBC Four

7.00 Heritage! The Battle for Britain's Past 8.00 Oceans 9.00 Wallander: The Fifth Woman 10.55 Glastonbury: Public Enemy

ITV2
4.30 Film: Star Wars: Episode II –
Attack of the Clones (2002) 7.15
Film: The Scorpion King (2002)
9.00 Film: Pitch Black (2000)
11.15 Lemon La Vida Loca 11.55
Film: 300 (2006)

ITV3
3.10 Film: Murder, She Wrote: The
Last Free Man (2001) 5.00 Film:
The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery
(1966) 7.00 Agatha Christie's
Marple 9.00 Agatha Christie's
Poirot 11.00 Wire in the Blood

10.45 Tour de France 2013 Live 4.30 British Touring Car Championship 6.00 The Sweeney 7.00 Tour de France 2013 Highlights 8.00 The Motorbik Show 9.00 Hell on Wheels 10.00 Film: Cliffhanger (1993)

E4
3.00 90210 4.00 Rules of
Engagement 6.00 The Big Bang
Theory 7.00 The Mindy Project
7.30 Happy Endings 8.00 How I
Met Your Mother 8.30 2 Broke Girls
9.00 Film: Coming to America
(1988) 11.20 The Inbetweeners

Film4
3.30 The Remains of the Day
(1993) 6.10 The Hunt for Red
October (1990) 9.00 Limitless
(2011) Soi-fi thriller, with Bradley
Cooper. 11.05 Scanners (1981)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 30.06.13

CHOICE



Michael Buble's Day Off

Suited and booted and preened to perfection with a voice that booms from here to the other side of Christmas, Michael Buble never fails to put on a show stopping performance. But just for once, this isn't about his voice – it's all about his private life. Yes, Buble is allowing access into his life as he takes a day off in his hometown of Vancouver to spend time with his friends and family. Michael pays his 86-year-old grandpa a visit. and reminisces with his dad about the days and nights they used to spend out at sea, before preparing to attend his 20th high school

6.00 Breakfast 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show, 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Sunday Politics: 12.10 Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix. Suzi Perry presents coverage of the eighth round of the season at Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm), where Mark Webber took the honours last year 3.30 A Question of Sport: A-Z_ (ft) 4.00 Escape to 15 port: A-Z_ (ft) 4.00 Escape to 7 Praise. 5.35 earthflight. A bird'seye view of Europe. (ft) 6.35 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

8.35 BBC Aews; Regionian lews;
Weathers Roadshow. Finns
Antiques Roadshow. Finns
Antiques Roadshow. Finns
Death Roadshow Finns
Bornell Roadshow

The White Queen. Margaret Beaufort joins Warwick's Beaufort joins Warwick's rebellion against Edward, but when the uprising fails, the traitors run for their lives — so Elizabeth and Jacquetta turn to witchcraft again.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day Live. The Confederations Cup final (Kick-off 11.00pm). Gary Lineker presents all the action from the showpiece match at the Maracana in Rio de Janeirro, Brazil.

Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

1.30 Weatherview. 1.35 BBC News.

BBC₂

6.00 This is BBC Two. 6.40 Film:
Mr Lucky. (1943) Romantic
comedy drama, starring Cary Grant
and Laraine Day. 8.15 The A to Z of
The Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee of the Committee

the series.

8.00 Top Gear. New series.
Jeremy Clarkson and James
May take part in a race
between a car and a yacht in
New Zealand and Richard
Hammond tries out three of
the latest hot hatches.

the latest not hatches.

9.00 Rise of the Continents. Iain Stewart examines the development of Eurasia, which consists of Europe and Asia and was formed by tectonic-plate collisions over millions of years. Last in the series

10.00 Glastonbury 2013. Jo Whiley, Mark Radcliffe and Whiley, Mark Radcliffe and Whiley, Mark Radcliffe and Coverage of the last day of the festival, with Mumford & Sons scheduled to headline the Pyramid stage. 2.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. The story of the smugglers who used to operate on Romney Marsh in Kent, and whether bringing super-fast broadband to the northern English countryside is worth the expense. (R) 3.00 Holby City. Oille's erratic behaviour endangers a patient's behaviour endangers a patient's life. (R) **4.00** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

TV: Jake and the Neverland 6.15 Jake and the 6.00 CITV: 6.00 CTTV- Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.15 Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.25 Poppy Cat. 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.35 Kick Burtowski – Suburban Cate of Canimals. (R) 7.35 Kick Burtowski – Suburban Daredevil 8.00 Sonny with a Chance. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Country House Sunday. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 11.20 ITV News: Weather. 11.25 Film: Sparking Cyanide. (1932) A Touch of Frost. (R) 4.20 You've Reen Framed (R) 4.50 Film: Beethoven's 5th. (2003) 6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

Negurial Programme;
Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.
With Coolio, Jenny Eclair and Matthew Wolfender.

8.00 The Cube: Celebrity
Special. Olympic gymnast
Louis Smith and TOWIE Star
Mark Wright take on the
challenge in a bid to raise
money for charity. Phillip
Schofield hosts.

9.00 Michael Rubble Special

9.00 Michael Rubbl

9.00 Michael Buble's Day Off. The Canadian cropper give The Canadian crooner gives a personal insight into his life as he takes a day off in his home town of Vancouver to spend time with his family and friends

and friends.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 The Talent Show Story. The changing role of the talentshow host. (R)

11.15 Murder, She Wrote. Part two of two. Doctor reveals Seth was poisoned. (R)

12.15 The Store. 2.15 Monk. (R)

3.00 Motorsport UK. 3.50 ITV
Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Tractel People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Ironman 2013. 7.05 Windsor Triathlori 8.00 September 9.10 Sep

In the control of the

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5
6.00 Milkchakel Peppa Pin 6.05
Roary the Racing Corr. (R) 6.15 Fift
Roary the Racing Corr. (R) 6.15 Fift
Guppies 6.35 The Mr Men Show.
(R) 6.50 Chioe's Closet 7.00
Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20
Moddy in Toyland. (R) 7.30 Experiments
Moddy in Toyland. (R) 7.30 Little
of Bottle Top Bill and Friends. (R) 7.50 Little
of Bottle Top Bill and His Best
Friend Cork, (R) 8.20 Milkshakel
Monkey. (R) 8.25 Angelina
Ballerina. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R)
9.00 Ben and Holly's Little
Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Toby's
Travelling Circus. (R) 9.30 Roary
Lamm. (R) 10.00 The Mr Men
Show. (R) 10.00 The Mr Men
Show. (R) 10.15 Power Rangers
Samurai. (R) 10.50 ThunderCats.
(R) 11.15 Monkey Clebrity
Sunday. 2.00 Film: National
Seconds Corr. (R) 10.50 ThunderCats.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights.

10.00 Film: The Eye. (2008)
Premiere. Horror, starring
Jessica Alba

11.55 Bomb Patrol. Chase Holzhauer and Jeremy Stein are called on to dispose of a suicide vest.

suicide vest.

12.55 SuperCasino. 4.00
Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.20
Make It Big. (R) 4.50 Roary the
Racing Car. (R) 5.00 Angels of
Jarm. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R)
5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 Hones Helpline. (R)
Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary
Helpline. (R)
Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: British Grand Prix
Highlights 8.00 Vampire Weekend &
Jessie Ware @ Glastonbury 9.00
Editors & Lianne La Havas @
Glastonbury 10.00 The xx Live @
Glastonbury 11.30 Russell
Howard's Good News Extra

BBC Four 7.00 Britain's Natural World 7.10 The Rabbits of Skomer 7.20 Film: She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949) 9.00 Rich Hall's You Can Go to Hell, I'm Going to Texas 10.30 Glastonbury: Bobby Womack ITV2 ITV2
3.15 Film: Catwoman (2004) 5.15
Film: Star Wars: Episode III –
Revenge of the Sith (2005) 8.00
Film: Evan Almighty (2007) 10.00
The Only Way Is Essex 10.50 Big
Rich Texas 11.50 Hell's Kitchen
ITV3

3.45 Inspector Morse 5.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 7.55 Lewis. The

connistie's Poirot **7.55** Lewis. The inspector investigates a student's murder. **10.00** A Touch of Frost ITV4

ITV4
1.00 Tour de France 2013 Live 4.30
Dakar Rally: Frontline to Finish Line
6.30 Police, Camera, Action! 7.00
Tour de France 2013 Highlights 8.00
20 Years of Champions League
10.00 Film: Species: The
Awakening (2007)

E4
4.00 90210 5.00 The Mindy Project
5.30 New Girl 6.00 The Big Bang
Theory 7.30 How! Met Your Mother
8.30 Film: Hot Shots! Part Deux
(1993) 10.15 The Inbetweeners
11.20 Don't Trust the B**** in
Apartment 23 11.50 Alan Carr:
Chaty Man

7.1IM4
3.05 Black Knight (2001) 4.55 The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) 6.50 Grease (1978) 9.00 Unknown (2011) 11.15 The Spirit of '45 (2013)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Picking Up and Dropping Off, Channel 5, 3.15pm Two single parents – one a lonely weatherman and the other an antiques dealer – have a chance encounter during a hectic trip to the airport to drop off their children. The pair go their separate ways, but although they are unable to stop thinking about each other, they lack the courage to act on their feelings. Romantic comedy, starring Scott Wolf, Amanda Detmer and Rachelle Lefevre. (2003)

TUESDAY

Cold Mountain, BBC2, 11.20pm
A soldier serving in the American Civil War deserts his post and makes a long journey home to the woman he loves. She faces challenges of her own, as she struggles to run her dead father's farm and stop the cruel leader of the local home guard stealing her land. Anthony Minghella's period drama, starring Nicole Kidman, Jude Law, Renee Zellweger, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Natalie Portman and Donald Sutherland. (2003)

WEDNESDAY

WEUNESDAY
Holy Man, Channel 4, 1.45am
The cynical executive in charge of a downmarket TV
shopping channel hines a mystic guru as a presenter to
draw in more viewers. The ratings soar as the unlikely
host's on-air spiritual advice proves a runaway hit with the public, and also makes his shallow boss reassess his values. Satirical comedy, starring Eddie Murphy, Jeff Goldblum, Kelly Preston and Jon Cryer. (1998)



Murder 101: If Wishes Were Horses, Channel 5, 3.15pm Retired criminologist Dr Jonathan Maxwell teams up with private detective Mike Bryant to investigate the theft of a champion racehorse. However, the case takes a more sinister turn when a member of the family that ns the animal dies in suspicious circumstan Mystery, starring Ray Abruzzo and Brad Beyer. (2007)

FRIDAY

Notting Hill, ITV, 10.35pm
A recently divorced bookshop owner finds love with a glamorous Hollywood film star, but ends up the focus of unwanted media interest – which makes maintaining a relationship a tricky proposition. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts. (1999)

Old School, BBC1, 11.25pm

Old Scnool, BBCJ, 11.2bpm
An embittered lawyer decides to relive the wild, crazy days
of his youth after his girlfriend is unfaithful, and enlists the
help of two equally disillusioned friends in setting up a
fraternity house next to his former college campus.
Comedy, with Luke Wilson and Will Ferrell. (2003)

Pick of the Week

Rick takes a culinary journey around India

part-travelogue, part-cookery ow format is a recipe which has been emulated many times, ever since Keith Floyd first wobbled his way through various exotic locations in search of interesting foods (and drinks)

It's quite a simple one to follow, too – simply take one recognisable chef, immerse in a sunny location, simmer for six weeks and serve with a brand new hardback cookbook. Et voilâ!

So yes, it's true that this latest adventure embarked upon by Rick Stein is hardly original – Stein himself has had similar series already in locales such as the Far East and Spain already – however the Oxfordshire foodie is always worth a

His avuncular style and enthusiastic demeanour make him the perfect traveller, as he gets to the roots of an area, meeting locals and getting to know their culinary secrets, as well as exploring how food plays a pivotal role in their culture.

This week, the seafood chef approaches the halfway point of his journey, as he arrives in the southern town of Madurai in Tamil Nadu. Located on the banks of the River Vaigai, Madurai has a rich history.

Vaiga, Madural has a nch history. It's been a major settlement for over 2,000 years, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world – so as one might reasonably expect its people have developed an impressive array of local delicacies. Indeed, while three, Rick learns how to cook food fit for a delty at a temple, as well as sampling the speciality lentil-based dish of sambar.

speciality lentil-based dish of sambar. It's not long before our genial tour guide is back on the road again, though, and en route to the state of Kerala, by way of a road trip across the Western Ghats. Kerala, on the Malabar coast in the south-west of the country, has long been a bustling centre for the spice trade, allowing its dishers to develop rich and complex flavours.

Here. Rick picks up some tips on making a traditional pork curry with a

turning his attention to preparing a regional dessert, payasam, which is a etened rice putting containing fruit, nuts, and plenty of spices.

For anyone who thought the cuisine of India was simply curry, curry and more curry, this will prove to be an eye-opening series – It seems that in reality, dishes are as diverse and plentiful as they are delicious, and it's that variety which is as richly spicy as any.

Mind you, that's not to say Rick doesn't enjoy a good curry. He explained at the start of the series, explained at the start of the senes, "There's something about a curry that's all-pervading; just the thought it ignites a longing deep inside us. It's the only food I can think of where the sense of smell works so wonderfully well with memory and imagination... No other food I know gives the taste bud's such a roller-coaster ride."

It's that blend of poeticism and enthusiasm that makes Rick the perfect choice to front this spectacular



Rick Stein's India, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY The Gadget Show

Channel 5, 8pm
Gamers take note! Tonight, the team is at the world's biggest gamers' expo to sample the PS4 and Xbox One in the company of gaming superstars KSI and Ali-A. Now part of a huge ndustry, consoles are becoming more multi-nedia and their games more realistic, so it's antalising to imagine what these new releas are capable of. However, it's not just the PS4 and Xbox One that get sampled tonight. Rachel Riley and Jason Bradbury put the latest home security technology through its paces, Pollyanna Woodward tests a jet-powered bodyboard, while Jon Bentley looks at the alternatives when he asks whether we still need Skv TV.

Undercover Boss Channel 4, 9pm

Here's a lesson to live your life by: always welcome new colleagues with open arms, at east until you're completely sure that they're not an Undercover Boss. This ever-entertaining eries is back for a fifth series tonight. beginning as Phil Couchman, CEO of DHL Express UK & Ireland, joins staff on the front line. In the three years since he became boss, Phil has seen the company's turnover reach a massive £800million - however, rapid xpansion brings its own problems, and the gh-flying exec is eager to find out what can e done, even if it means getting his own hands dirty in the process.

TUESDAY

Gok Live: Stripping for Summer

Channel 4, 8pm
'Thank Gok he's back!'... is how we imagine the cries of women across the nation will sound when they catch this new series. Gok Wan's on hand to prepare women with the confidence they need to dare to bare for the summer holidays, but this time he's got the added pressure of the show being live. In the first instalment, he surprises two women with a new look for the holidays, while his huge outside catwalk show is filled with tips on how to look good in the sun, no matter your size or body shape. First up, he's focusing on the dreaded bikini. Meanwhile, Katie Piper is on hand to offer a step-by-step guide to essential holiday beauty

WEDNESDAY

Channel 4, 10pm

As the series comes to an end, we check in with Mia and David, who are now in a fully fledged relationship – but it seems like there are just as many problems that come hand-in-hand with relationships as they do the single life. As Mia prepares to meet her new boyfriend's children, events take an awkward turn and she is forced to finally confront the gap in her life that's she's trying to fill. Bryan Elsley ok Live: Stripping ... Tue

played a blinder with this series: it's touched the nation and appealed to so many people in different ways. Hats off to all involved in a stunning series.

THURSDAY Happy Families

TTV, 9pm
As the last episode in this fascinating documentary series airs, the four families at the heart of it should be in a celebratory mood – at the very least, they should be patting themselves on the backs for being brave

enough to let the nation get a glimpse of their domestic arrangements However, one clan in particular However, one can in particular should feel like throwing a party, as Mel and Kris are renewing their vows, although juggling five kids with five part-time jobs doesn't leave much time for wedding

planning. When they're not trying to make it down the aisle, Mel and
Kris find time to reflect on what
it takes to make a marriage work, a topic that's also on

FRIDAY BBC1, 8,30pm day, Channel 4, 8pm hopes up too

the minds of the

other families

much – the BBC aren't finally putting us out of our misery and bringing us the third series of Sherlock, complete with an explanation of what exactly happened in the last episode of season two. But fortunately, we can enjoy the second series again, thanks to these repeats which begin with the detective duo investigating a case of blackmail that threate to go right to the very heart of the British establishment. That's more or less just another day at the office for Holmes and Watson. But that's before their investigations bring Sherlock into contact with someone every bit as cold, ruthless and brilliant as he is – Irene Adler (Lara Pulver).

ITV, 9pm

If the endless repeats of Grand Designs Location, Location, Location, and A Place in the Sun haven't quite satisfied your appetite for shows about houses, then this countdown show should. For the last in the current series, Michael Buerk and Bettany Hughes will be wrapping things up with the aid of some rather famous folks, and the odd person who is almost famous. We'll let you decide which one is which as actor David Jason, actress and impressionist Ronni Ancona, Father Brown star Mark Williams and TV presenter Mary-Ann Ochota explore the 10 most remarkable properties in the country. They include the Lincoln restaurant with a tradic, murderous past, and a house in Shropshire that helped save the monarchy.

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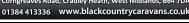
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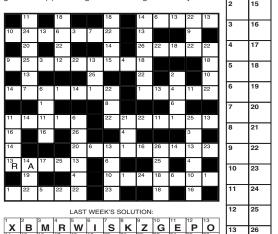
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.227

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- 6. Everybody was in debt - it's not forbidden (7)
- 7. Timber needed for shafts (5) 9. A New York word
- (3) 10. The right alterna-
- tive for the proofreader (9)
- 12. I made orders for desert transport
- 15. Venus is no matinee idol, apparently! (7-4)
- 17. Slightly injured withdrawn from the team (9)
- 19. Aim in a given direction (3)
- 21. Monetary securities producing personal restrictions (5)
- 22. I strive to make another call (7)

- 1 Cast used for supporting a weak member (5)
- 2. This sly creature is a loud bellower (3)
- 3. Money needed to settle the account, we hear, in this way (4)
 4. Inconstant, like a
- planet (9) 5. I'm ready for the picture to be put on (7) 8. Wedding belles (6)
- 11. They certainly couldn't be ac-cused of having too little spirit! (9)
- 13. A stick-up with me around constitutes a threat (6)
- 14. One who ousts the Eastern conqueror (7) 16. Point at which
- metal-workers strike (5)
- 18. Poetic end to the day is calm and unruffled (4)
- 20. Short writing can be illuminated (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

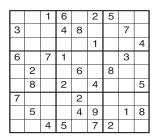
- 6. Liberty (7)
- 7. Lid (5)
- 9. Insane (3)
- 10. Impromptu (9)
- 12. Essay (11)
- 15. Cheekv (11)
- 17. Deeply shocked (9) 19. In favour of (3)
- 21. Scatter (5)
- 22. Attack (7)

- 1. Handle (5) 2. Determined (3) 3. Trick (4)
- 4. Fit (9)

Down

- 5. Censure (7)
- 8. Diminish (6)
- **11.** Alien (9) 13. Glib talk (6)
- **14.** Copy (7)
- 16. Earth (5)
- **18.** Otherwise (4) 20. Hiatus (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Spine-chilling; 8 Trousers; 9 Duty; 10 Stayed; 12 Easter; 14 Edison; 16 Temple; 18 Spar; 20 Trailers; 22 Distinguished. Down: 1 Spirited; 2 Injury; 3 Acre; 4 Misspent; 5 Blades; 6 Knot; 11 Donating; 13 Enlarged; 15 Struts; 17 Molest; 19 Pair; 21 Arum. QUICK - Across: 7 United Kingdom; 8 Reticent; 9 Able; 10 Gentle; 12 Action; 14 Street; 16 Tested; 18 Goad; 20 Entrance; 22 Salvation Army. Down: 1 Interest; 2 Strict; 3 Idle; 4 Distract; 5 Aghast; 6 Toli; 11 Entraety; 13 Overcome; 15 Endive; 17 Seaman; 19 Oral; 21 Trot.





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Two-bedroomed home is near to town centre

PRICED at £103,000, this two bedroom end terraced house in West Bromwich is within easy reach of the town centre, commuter routes and local schools.

The property in Pearson Street has two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, double glazing and gas central

on the ground floor reception room one, 13ft 7in by 11ft 11in, has a gas fire with marble surround, with the second with marble surround, with the second reception room measuring 12ft 2in by 11ft 11in and the kitchen – 9ft 5in by 7ft 8in – having stainless steel sink and drainer, plumbing for washing machine, wall and base units, electric oven and hob.

Shower

On the first floor are two bedrooms and bathroom with WC, wash basin and

Shower.

Outside to the front of the property is a path to the door, and to the rear a path with slabbed patio area.

Contact Bartrams on 0121 601 9370.



The terraced property in Pearson Street, West Bromwich is on the market with Bartrams for £103,000 The American-style fridge/freezers are a major attraction in the newly fitted kitchen

Semi-detached houses are now on the market



The homes at Amelia Court development in Cannock have a price tag of £130,000

A SMALL select development of two bedroom semi-detached houses in Amelia Court, Cannock, is now on the market priced at £130,000.

priced at £130,000.

On the ground floor is a cloakroom with wash hand basin and toilet, with the lounge measuring 14ft 11in by 8ft 5in and the kitchen - 7ft 9in by 12ft 5in - to be fitted with a range of units with a choice of finishes subject to early reservation, and with

built-in double oven, ceramic hob, over built-in double oven, ceramic hob, oven hood/extractor, American style fridge/freezer and integrated automatic washing machine and dishwasher.

The bathrooms are to be fitted with white suites of panelled bath, vanity unit with hand basin, shower cubicle and WC.

Outside the gardens are laid with lawns and paved pathways.

Call Boot & Son on 01543 505454.



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Property



Semi with refitted kitchen on market

TWO-BEDROOM semidetached house with a refit-ted kitchen/diner in Kestrel Grove, Coppice Farm, Willen-

hall, is for sale at £132,995.
The property has double glazing and

The property has double glazing and central heating, a spacious lounge, refitted lounge/diner, separate utility, conservatory, two bedrooms, family bathroom, garage storage area, tarmac driveway and rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, 14ft 3in by 10ft 2in, has a wall mounted electric fire with double doors to the kitchen/diner measuring 13ft 3in by 9ft 7in and with a range of wall and base units, work tops, stainless steel one and a half bowl sink, space for slot in cooker

with chimney extractor over and French doors to a conservatory which is 11ft 6in by 9ft 6in and has french doors

French doors to a conservatory which in strict high by 9ft 6in and has french doors to the rear.

There is also a utility room with a range of wall and base units, work tops, stainless steel sink with mixer tap, space andplumbing for automatic washing machine and space for tall fridge freezer - and with a door to the garage storage area.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath with shower over, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside to the front is a tarmac driveway and to the rear a lawn, two paved patio areas and shrub borders.

Call L & S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595 to arrange a viewing.



There's a range of white wall and base units with worksurfaces in the spacious kitchen/diner



Private driveway leads to three-bed link detached

A THREE-BEDROOM link detached property down a private driveway is for sale with no chain – and has been reduced in price to £139 000

The house in Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, has a porch, lounge, breakfast kitchen, veranda, downstairs WC, three bedrooms, bathroom, detached double garage, parking

and front garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, 18ft by 12ft 1in, has a gas fire and access to a breakfast kitchen with a range of units, roll edge work surfaces, stainless steel sink with

mixer tap and plumbing and space for washing machine. There is also a veranda and downstairs WC.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with bath with shower, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

wash hand basin and WC.
Outside the property is situated down a
private driveway accessed via electric gates
with a lawn and greenhouse, and to the rear
is a double garage accessed via Broadmeadow lane.

Call the agent Webbs, 01543 468846 for further details.

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CRADLEY HEATH, Wycherley Way

the end of July. EPC: TBC

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, Tregarron Road

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, Blackberry Lane

of Halesowen. This lovery nome learnings 2 countries 2 countries, 2 reception rooms, study, modern and large kitchen, athroom with separate shower cubical, gas central heating, azing, pleasant enclosed garden, on road parking. EPC: E

£550 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH. Chez Nous

naving lounge/onling room overlooking rear garden, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor, garage, gas central heating and double glazing. The property has a lovely rear garden. Available now. EPC: E

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN. Mount Street

presented end terraced nouse reatures 2 good sized reception rooms, open plan modern kitchen, 2 big double bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, medium sized rear garden and on road parking. EPC: E

£550 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS. Clent View

From £535-£625 PCM



NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH. Corngreaves Walk

autifully presented and not to be mis rraced house set in a quiet location feat and bedrooms, large modern lounge, fi

£525 PCM



OLDBURY. Kingsway

Lovely modern top. ... double bedrooms, master with en-sune, bosons, double bedrooms, master with en-sune, bosons, double bedrooms, master with no shower, loft uccess, allocated parking, close to main bus route.

£525 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS. Aqua Court

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH. Court Street

bedroom traditional terraced property in the centre of I Hill which features 2 double bedrooms, 2 reception ms, 1 dining/study room, modern fitted kitchen and wnstairs bathroom with shower and separate toilet. Gas stral heating. Walking distance to rail/bus links. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, The Infield

unning and modern apartment on a sought after new tate. This ground floor apartment features 2 bedrooms,

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, Pear Tree Lane

dem 1st floor apartment. Situated on a popular development witing distance of Old Hill train station and Old Hill shops, the propriorises: 1 large double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, gas ce

£475 PCM



DUDLEY, Anchor Drive

£475 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, Bagley Street

ey) arge and winnin waxing oistance to Stouronoge town This lovely semi-detached house features a great lounge, ing kitchen with gas oven and hob, 2 double bedrooms, athroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, on road double glazing, gas central heating. Available now. EPC: D

£450 PCM



LYE. High Street

LTE, migni states.

Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good sized bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contempary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking, Available now, EPC: F

£450 PCM



HALESOWEN. Masefield Rise

INALCOUNCE, MASCRIBER MISC Located on the ever so popular estate of the Abbey Fields. This unfurnished ground floor apartment features 1 double bedroom, modern kitchen, light and airy lounge, house bathroom with shower, own rear garden, garage. EPC: E

£425 PCM





11 - 13 Hagley Road, Halesowen, B63 4PU







The rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with a patio and well-stocked flower beds

Detached bungalow with double garage

bedroom detached bungalow in Cross Street, Burntwood, is for sale with no onward chain, based on offers around £229,950.

The property benefits from double glazing and gas central

heating with accommodation briefly comprising of front and rear porch, reception hallway, three bedrooms, lounge, dining

area, fitted kitchen and utility.

There are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of panel bath with mains shower and screen, WC and hand basin while the lounge measuring 13ft by 12ft cabinet, round edge work surfaces, sin has a coal effect living flame gas fire with the dining area—12ft in by 11ft 7in – having a feature brick fireplace with tiled hearth. Display

The kitchen, 12ft 4in by 11ft 2in, has a range of base drawer and larder units, work surfaces and space and plumbing for washing

has a range of base, drawer and wall units, glass fronted display

space and plumbing for washing machine and tumble dryer. The

property is set back behind a low wall with brick pillars and iron railings, driveway to a carport and double garage with the lawned front garden and the rear garden having a patio, trees and shrubs.

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Semi-detached house set on popular estate



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A THREE BEDROOM semi-detached house on the popular estate of Stone Cross in West Bromwich is on the market priced at £119,950.

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On the ground floor the lounge is 18ft 2in by 10ft 9in while the kitchen – 11ft 9in by 10ft 2in – has wall and base units, stainless steel sink and drainer and plumbing for washing machine.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom/we room with WC, wash hand basin and shower.

Outside to the front is a paved driveway and lawned garden, and to the rear a paved patio area and lawn. Contact Bartrams on 0121 601 9370.

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 * Three bedrooms

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Cradley Heath



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Swan Crescent

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Oldbury



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Large Ilving/dining room

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'AT) each additional tenant. Deposit

Halesowen



8 Clancey Way

- fitted kitchen with appliances

inteo κircnen with appliances
* bathroom with shower over bath
* gas boiler/radiator heating system
* allocated parking
* Available July 2013 * EPC = C
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- Fitted kitchen with some appliances Shower room
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 * EPC = C

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- * Kitchen with essential appuarities
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 VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit

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 * One double bedroom

 * Living room
- Kitchen with appliances DG windows & N/S heating
- Car space EPC = E Monthly rent of £385+



29 Windmill Hill

- odern house with garden double bedrooms aster bed with walk-in wardrobe
- * Master bed with walk-in wardrobe *Ensuite bathroom & house shower room * Kitchen with various appliances *Down stairs W.C & alarm * DG windows & Gas CH * EPC = C Monthly rent of £525+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit

Cradley Heath



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 ² Contemporary decoration
 ¹ Modern bathroom suite
 ¹ DC windows, GCH & alarm
 ¹ Parking for 3 vehicles
 ¹ EPC = C

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Halesowen



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Perry Close, Dudley



Terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens

Rowley Hill View, Cradley Heath



This modern detached house situated in a cul-de-sac location in a popular residential area has the following accommodation. Halesowen

Slater Close, Cradley Heath



Modern detached house comprising WC, kitchen/ diner, conservatory, three bedrooms, en-suite to master bedroom and bathroom. Halesowen.

Pimlico Court, Dudley



Offers Over£110,000

Terraced three bedroom property comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and parking.

Blackacre Road, Dudley



Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs WC, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

John Padden Close, Rowley Regis



Modern four bedroom detached house includes lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility, WC and master with en-suite. Halesowen

New Pool Road, Cradley Heath



£85,000

An end terraced property comprising porch, WC, lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway. Halesowen

Greaves Road, Dudley



Offers Over£90,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Ivanhoe Street, Dudley



Mid terrace three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance lobby, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and rear garden.

Windsor Road, Halesowen



A three bedroom house benefitting from extended lounge, separate dining room, conservatory, gardens and parking. Halesowen

Victoria Road, Halesowen



Offers Over£60,000

This is a well presented first floor apartment with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, bedroom and allocated parking. Halesowen.

Old Park Road, Dudley



Offers Over£90,000

Three bedroom traditional semi detached house briefly comprising kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

Geneva Road, Tipton



Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, downstairs WC, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.









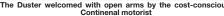


Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Dacia Duster is proving to be a real deal buster





Europe lately, you might have spotted something sporting a differ-

spotted something sporting a different badge on the roads.

Dacia products have become a popular sight in recent years – especially in France – for two very good reasons: affordability and durability.

Low cost motoring is all the rage on the continent. Unlike in the UK, our foreign friends aren't such hardened badge snobs, meaning cars such as Dacia's Duster have been welcomed with open arms by cost-conscious

comed with open arms by cost-conscious motorists.

Simply put, when you can get a compact SUV capable of plugging mud with the best Land Rover can offer for less than the price of a Fiesta, somehow the badge on the bonnet is the least of your worries. If Dacia is a mystery to

you, you're not alone. Snapped up by Renault some time ago, critics thought the French firm was taking a huge risk with this budget maker of uninspiring cars

or uninspiring cars.

The passing of time has proven the naysayers wrong, as Renault's input has led to a portfolio of value-driven, dependable, stylish and capable products; from superminis to the aforementioned Duster.

Appearance

Lifestyle SUVs are two-a-penny these days but few are that cheap anymore. Most are increasingly car-like in their appearance and

increasingly car-like in their appearance and on-road performance.

The Duster retains a chunky-looking, pur-poseful exterior of a traditional 4x4 but with enough curves to help it slice through the air with relative ease.

The emphasis might be on modest performance and equipment levels, but there's nothing cheap about the Duster. Low power petrol and diesel engines are offered (1.6-litre, 105bhp petrol and 1.5-litre, 110bhp diesel), plus the choice of front or four-wheel drive.

The switchable all-wheel drive system allows a driver to choose between front-drive, an autosposing mode and a leaded 474 setting.

a driver to choose between front-drive, an autosensing mode and a locked 4x4 setting.
Factor in three trim levels and there's little else you might want. Well, apart from air-con, a stereo and alloy wheels. Yes, this is how Dacia can price the Duster so low.

If you want these creature comforts, you're going to have to pick the middle specification for some tunes and the highest spec model if you want manual air conditioning and alloys.

Still, even if you opt for the flagship Duster, you're not even close to high-spec Skoda Yeti

money. The car's interior looks and feels tough thanks to sensible trim and material choices, although it retains an easy-on-the-eye appear-

ance.
Familiar Renault switchgear rounds off the driver-centric side of things, while the Duster's cabin is a good size and easily capable of accommodating a growing family.

Capacity

Move rearwards and the ability to fold the rear seats for extra load capacity is a detail that won't belost on active families.

On the move, there's a similar feeling of complishment. While neither engine is burst-g with excess horsepower, brisk progress is

that scores the highest in terms of flexibility and economy. Those attributes alone should

and economy. Those attributes alone should have anyone considering using the Duster as a family workhorse to plump for the oil burner. Predictably, all-wheel drive variants grip and go with ease on a variety of surfaces, but if the Duster is scheduled for only light duties, there's no shame in opting for a two-wheel drive variant. Furthermore, compliant suspension and accurate steering put to rest any notion that low cost equals lack of talent.

By taking a common sense, low frills approach to motoring, Dacia has won many friends and satisfied owners in mainland Europe. The firm's Duster is proof that, even in the fashion-led world of lifestyle SUVs, you can succeed if all the elements — looks, ability, affordability, practicality — add up.

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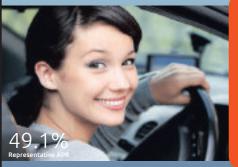
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MG unveils the full range of new styles

of styles for the UK MG3 at its Birmingham-based European

Birmingnam-based European Design Centre.

The new car carries forward many of the styling cues first illustrated on the MG ZERO concept car, again designed here at SAIC Motors European Design Centre. SAIC, MG's parent company, is the eight largest automotive company in the world and China's No1 auto firm.

firm.

The UK studio has just undergone The UK studio has just undergone an additional investment and is now more than double its original size. It opened just three years ago in what was then a £5 million capital programme. It's now the fifth largest automotive design studio in Britain. MG3 is a distinctive statement of modern British style designed to target young and style conscious buyers, wanting something that's different from anything else in the market.

Interior

From launch, MG3 customers will be

Interior

From launch, MG3 customers will be able to personalise both the exterior and interior of this new supermini MG, making it fun to buy and own, as well as having the MG trademark of being fun to drive.

The MG3 is all about style, fun and offering customers the ability to personalise the car. With three trim levels, 10 colours and a range of at least 10 graphic packs, they will be spoilt for choice. The combinations are almost endless.

endless.

Depending on the model choice, exterior highlights include 16"
Diamond cut alloy wheels, unique LED 'hockey stick' daytime running lights, sport-design bumper, side sill extensions, rear spoiler, sports-design rear



How the MG3, designed at the Birmingham-based centre, could look

trim level and options, key features will be an easy to use air conditioning system, six-speaker audio, Bluetooth with audio streaming, DAB radio, USB/Aux input, automatic lights, automatic wipers, rear parking sensors, 'ZERO' design fabric seats and part-leather trim.

This unique and contemporary style of the MG3 is the work of the 30 design staff and 300 engineers at SAIC's UK Technical Centre here at the MG Birm-

valance, chrome exhaust finishers and MG insert headlamps.
Inside the MG3, again depending on trim level and options, key features ham factory, following the introduction of the MG6 petrol and diesel range of GT fastbacks and Magnette four-door

GT fastbacks and Magnette four-door sports saloons. Full specifications and prices will be announced nearer to the public launch over MG3.

Production will start at the MG Birmingham site in a few months time and it is anticipated that dealer demonstrators will be in showrooms by September.







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general

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SPORT

George's aood form continues with win

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1 The George 241 Bold-mere 191 THE first team continued

their recent good form with a comfortable home win against Boldmere.

After the first four The George led by 20 shots having all four winners. Elliot McGuinness (21-11) Jamie Dunn (21-16), Shane Day (21-18) and Paddy McGuinness (21-19).

Boldmere fought back in

the middle four games to

the middle four games to leave The George just nine shots in front.

A strong back four for The George all won their games to ensure that the Boldmere fight back was halted halted

Steve Dicken (21-8) and Phil Clinton (21-10) were the best winners in the back four and with Steve back four and with Steve Darling (21-12) and Paul Greene (21-13) also winning The George finally finished the match by 50 shots in front. South Staffs Premier ECC 236-The George 166

next month.

in the pits at the event after carrying out an autograph session from 6pm. Brady Kurtz, brother of former National League star Todd, has also agreed to take his place in the field alongside all the current Heathens stars

Also included in the event, which is supported by Dudley Stroke Association,

Dudley Stroke Association, is reigning champion Kyle Newman, former Heathens skipper Jon Armstrong and hugely popular ex-Heathen Tom Perry.

Exciting

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "Full credit to Gary Patchett, our co-pro-moter, who has put this field together. It's probably the most exciting line-up we've had in the four Hammers we

had in the four Hammers we have done.

"I'm looking forward to meeting up with Billy Hamill again and can't wait to see the young riders Brady Kurtz and Max Ruml.

Brady Kurtz and Max Kuml.

"I'm also delighted to
welcome back Armo, Tom
and Darryl Ritchings who
always gave their best for
this club."

There will be a collection

The 2nd team are still finding it tough away from home and went down to a heavy defeat at ECC.

ECC were always in control finally winning the match by 70 shots.

The only bright spots for

The George were wins by Will Freeman (21-10), Mick McGuinness (21-17) and captain Gary Peniket (21-20).

Heathens' celebration

DUDLEY HEATHENS will DUDLEY HEATHENS will make a special presentation to club legends Alan Grahame and Jan O. Pedersen at the Cradley 83 celebration night on August 23. The event at Cradley Heath Liberal Club will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Cradley's greatest team.

Grahame, who rode over

of Cradley's greatest team.
Grahame, who rode over
700 meetings in the Dudley
Wood days, and Pedersen
will be on stage with 1983
Cradley boss Peter Adams.
A presentation will mark
the riders' contribution to
Cradley Heath Speedway.
Tickets are £10, available
from the club shop next
Tuesday when Heathens
face Mildenhall at Monmore
or online at www.dudleyheathens.co.uk.

Fixtures are vital, says Heathens boss

Best young riders are

WILL Pottinger says this week's Heathens clashes with Sheffield and Wolverhampton are important to the club's season. Heathens head to Sheffield on Thursday before facing Wolverhampton at Monmore Green in the Gary Peterson Memorial next Monday, duly 1. And boss Pottinger says without these meet-ings the fixture list would be frustrating for his

team.
He said: "If you take matches like these out of our fixture list this year it would have been a very stop-start season, so we want to keep giving the

team regular action.
"These meetings "These meetings have kept some continuity and kept the guys on the bikes when otherwise we would have had weeks and weeks without fix-

Speedway

"We've made a good start the National League ason and I think the extra fixtures have defi-

Season and 1 mink the extra fixtures have defi-nitely contributed to that.

"We'll keep trying to race as many fixtures as possible to try and keep our form going in the league

Valuable

"We'll be taking on Sheffield and Wolves, and they should be two good meetings which will provide more valuable track time to our lads. "It's a different track in Sheffield to give the riders some good experience, then the challenge match at Wolves we're really looking forward to. "It will be a big test as they are putting out a

very strong team, so it should be a great meeting.
"We've not seen this rivalry for a number of years now, and it'll be a great experience for everybody to see a Wolves versus Heathens meeting again.

"We'll just enjoy the experience and try to get a

"We'll just enjoy the experience and all of our good result.
"We'll be hoping to take victory, and if all of our team ride to their potential then I see no reason why we can't do that."

Wolverhampton have appointed club legend Sam Ermolenko for Monday's Monmore Green clash and are tracking club asset Joe Haines as their ton rider.

It's the first time the rivals have done battle in over a decade and a bumper crowd is expected with admission for adults reduced to £12.

Captain is fuming in 'cheating catch' row

FORDHOUSES captain Russell Thompson is furning after opening batsman Scott Richards was banned for two games in a 'cheat' row. Richards received the

minimum punishment from the Birmingham League

the Birmingham League after being reported by an umpire for using foul and abusive language in the Division Two game. He also threw his bat as helft the field when given out in their losing draw against Halesowen last weekend. Thompson admitted Richards swore, but said he was directing his abuse at Halesowen wicketkeeper Joe Tromans.

The Fordhouses skipper was angered by what he saw

was angered by what he saw as Tromans' actions in con-

was angered by what he saw as Tromans' actions in convincing the umpires that the opener should go.

"The umpires and Nick Archer (league secretary) have said it's for foul and abusive language and Scott did swear, but it was directed at the wicketkeeper," said Thompson.

"The wicketkeeper," said Thompson.

"The wicketkeeper claimed the catch and the umpires gave him out. But I saw their batsman Molshita, the following day and he said the ball bounced a yard in front of the wicketkeeper.

"Why claim it if the ball bounced? It's cheating.

bounced? It's cheating.

"Their wicketkeeper was warned for excessive appeal-

warneu 101 Cartelling."
Halesowen captain Wes Griffiths, who is normally wicketkeeper, said: "Both umpires gave him out and our micketkeeper said he would wicketkeeper said he would not have tried to claim it if he didn't think the ball had carried. It was a low catch."

set to hammer it out Brummies sink the Pirates in convincing win

SOME of the best young riders in the world will take their place in Dudley's prestigious FAST Golden Hammer at Wolverhampton BIRMINGHAM saw off the challenge of 2011 champions Poole to claim three Elite An exciting line-up has been assembled by the former Cradley club who have also tempted Cradley legend Billy Hamill back to the Black Country to meet the fans on Tuesday, July 16. Hamill will be alongside Californian youngster Max Ruml

Speedway

on the night for Dudley Stroke Association who are

promoting the Face Arms Speech Time message.

Club partners Motor Market will have a presence at the Hamill autograph session after agreeing to join the event and offer a cash prize to the most unlucky and most exciting riders on

and most exciting riders on

the night.

Normal admission prices apply for the meeting: £11 adults, £8 concessions and £2 children. A special souvenir programme, including an eight-page supplement on Hamill's Cradley career with shots ill lut's soil.

with photos, will cost £3. The club have announced riders for the forthcoming FAST Golden Hammer at Monnmore on Tuesday, July

LINE-UP: Ashley Morris

LINE-UP: Ashley Morris, Lewis Blackbird, Paul Starke, Dan Greenwood, Gareth Isherwood, Max Clegg, Nathan Greaves, Max Ruml, Brady Kurtz, Jon Armstrong, Kyle Newman, Robert Branford, Simon Lambert, Tom Perry, Darryl Ritchings, Kyle Hughes.

the night.

Poole to claim three Elite League points from a con-vincing 54-40 victory. The Selco Brummies tracked a full strength side and took full advantage as Ben Barker impressed, totalling 12 points from his five rides.

five rides.

Poole made the stronger start with a 2-4 in the opening race courtesy of a heat win for Chris Holder while Barker claimed second with Rohan Tungate in third as skipper Danny King fell at the back.

However, the first of many 'to forget' moments for the south coast side occurred in heat two as new recruit Thomas H Jonasson crashed

neat two as new recruit Thomas H Jonasson crashed heavily into the safety fence. The Swede was not only excluded but also had to withdraw from the meeting with suspected injured ribs; the race was awarded to Birmingham for a 5-1.

Two further maximums for the Brummies extended the lead to 10 and opened the opportunity for Neil Middleditch to use the tactical ride. Holder used the ride to its full potential in heat five, however, Poole were denied a possible 8-1 as Tungate locked up in front of Jason Doyle in the original staging, causing the Australian to



Birmingham's Nico Covatti in action against Poole Picture Aaron Lupton

take a heavy fall. Maciej
Janowski took the flag in
heat 10 and two further 3heat six to steady the ship,
but successive heat advantages for the Brummies
opened up a 13-point lead.
Heat nine saw the second
Janowski moved Poole to

of the two tactical rides used by Poole - this time on Janowski - however the Pole was passed up the inside by the Smolinski to share the spoils.

within 10 points of the home side.

With the loss of both ker reserves as well as the absence of Miskowiak; 6+ Poole were left with no Sta

option but to concede a rare 5-0 in heat 14. A 3-3 in the last race confirmed a 54-40 win to keep Birmingham

will to keep Birmingham second behind table toppers Wolverhampton. Birmingham 54: Ben Barker 12, Martin Smolinski 10+2, Jason Doyle 8+1, Chris Harris 8+1, Josh Auty 7+3, Nicolas Covatti 7+2, Danny King 1+1:

7+3, Nicolas Cova...
King 1+1.;
Poole 40: Maciej Janowski 15+1
Chris Holder 15, Przemyslaw Pawlick
6+1, Rohan Tungate 2, Dawic
Stachrya 2, Thomas H Jonasson 0.

Bulldogs fight back

Birmingham Bulldogs 28
Coventry Bears A 22
BIRMINGHAM Bulldogs
Rugby League FC came into
this match on the back of
two successive defeats, and
after the opening quarter of
an hour, a third loss loomed.
But they fought back for
a memorable win.
Bears opened the scoring

a memorable win.
Bears opened the scoring
after three minutes with a
try and extended their lead
with a converted try.
Bulldogs cut the gap
when Jermaine Bernard
scored a try with Sam
Edgar converting. Other
tries came from Curtis
Harris, Toby Davies and
full back and skipper Matt
Dudley.

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Chief view Fixtures are key says Pottinger Page 43



Pirates sunk Brummie riders scupper Poole Page 43



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Worlds help give a focus for Ellie

PARALYMPIC hero Ellie Simmonds has insisted she must move on from London 2012 as she targeted World Championship glory.

The Walsall star is ready for the British Gas Swimming Championships in Sheffield – a warm-up for the IPC World Championships in Montreal in August.

She has already qualified for Canada after April's British International Disability Swimming Championships.

ability Swimming Championships.

And, almost a year after she won double gold at the Paralympics, Simmonds is focused on the future.

"We do need to move on; it's nice to have people talking about it as it brings some amazing memories back and it shows the public still think about London," said the 18-year-old.

"After London I was here, there and everywhere. I wasn't in my normal routine and when I did get back into it, it was suddenly a bit boring.

boring.
"Each week I was doing something different, something amazing – but it can't be like that all the time, you have to get back into the routine.

routine. She admitted she has used the World Championships as motivation after struggling following the Games. "Luckily enough we had trials and I needed to focus on the Worlds," she said.

Colombian on the radar

ALBION are considering a move for Colombia interna-tional striker Macnelly Torres – with former Watford loan star Matej Torres – with former Watford loan star Matej Vydra also on their radar. The Baggies – The Raggies

The Baggies are keeping tabs on 'No.10' Torres as they plot a revamp of their forward line for next season and are also among several clubs to register an interest in Vydra.

The latter is keen on a

The latter is keen on a permanent switch to England from Italian side Udinese after impressing for the Hornets last season when he scored 20 goals.

Torres, aged 28, is eyeing a move to England late in his career ahead of a probable appearance in next year's World Cup in Brazil, where he hopes to partner £50m Monaco hitman Radamel Monaco hitman Radamel Falcao in Colombia's attack.

He has convinced current club Atletico Nacional to loan him out next season.

Club makes waves to bring home top trophy

Worcester County Relay Championships, Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton

HALESOWEN Swimming Club travelled to Wolverhampton for the annual County Relay Championships and were the only club in the county to field teams in every age group and event category.

After a strong morning session with five first places and all but two finishes in the top three positions, Halesowen found themselves in the overall lead and were also leading both male and female categories. In the afternoon session there were six

In the afternoon session there were six more first places with all of the teams putting in tremendous performances.

Swimming

The overall result was never really in doubt with Halesowen winning by a clear 43 points and the male trophy also won by 15.5 points which meant the club brought back the championship and male trophies for the fourth time in the last six years.

The girls and ladies teams were edged out of a win by just a single point.

All teams were outstanding with nearly three-quarters of the teams in the top three places. Stars of the show were the boys age 11-12 team of Jakob Baker, James Cuthbert,

Ben Meakin and Jack Simpson who won both medley and freestyle events in Cham-

both medley and freestyle events in Cham-pionship records.

Other double event winners were the open men's team including Josh Bradley. Zach Collins, Jacob Darby, Mark Laing and Luke Morris, the ladies combined age of 100-139 including Phillipa Chester, Rachel Hunt, Alison Peakman, Sarah Johnson and Tracy Worton with Claire Collins and Julie Everton joined the winning ladies 140+ team.

Other first place teams were the open ladies freestyle team of Hannah Cuthbert, Chloe Finch, Lilian Parsons and Becky

Spoor, the boys age 13-14 freestyle team including James Benson, Jamie Greenwood and Jacob Smith, the mixed 100-139 medley team including Matt Cherry and Steve Hickman and the 140+ Medley team including Karl Baker, John Pridden and Adrian Worton. Final point scores were:

Top Club: Halesowen. Top three Clubs: Halesowen 201, Redditch 158, Worcester 154.5

Top Girls Team: Stourbridge. Top three

Top Girls Team: Stourbridge. Top three Teams: Stourbridge 95.5, Halesowen 94.5, Worcester 73. Top Boys Team: Halesowen. Top three Teams: Halesowen 106.5, Red-ditch 91, Worcester 81.5.

Third win on trot for Heathens

Dudley 56 Mildenhall 36 HEATHENS maintained their perfect start to the National League season with a hard-working display

with a hard-working display against bitter rivals Mildenhall at Monmore, writes Rich Jones.

They were led superbly by inspirational skipper Ashley Morris, who is in the best form of his career, and former Mildenhall man Lewis Blackbird, who clearly enjoyed nutting one over his enjoyed nutting one over his enjoyed putting one over his old club in front of another

The result gives the former Cradley club three wins from three meetings to keep their play-off push on

keep their play-off push on target.

Morris and Blackbird combined for 5-1s in heats 13 and 15 to seal all three points – displaying excellent team riding in the process as they warm un for the they warm up for the National League Pairs Championship on Sunday which is at Mildenhall.

which is at Mildenhall.
Team boss Will Pottinger
was thrilled with the performance and praised Blackbird and Morris.
He said: "There were
some very good performances and the partnership of
Lewis Blackbird and Ashley
Morris was particularly
pleasing."

Tigers get their claws on Davies

BIRMINGHAM defender

BIRMINGHAM defender Curtis Davies was due to complete a £2.25m switch to Premier new-boys Hull. The former Albion and Villa centre-back is set to leave cash-strapped City. Hull were given permission to speak to Davies, 28, and he was due at the Tigers this week to agree terms and have a medical after being offered a three-year deal.

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STRIKER DI SANT LKS TO ALBION

ALBION will hold further talks with free-agent striker Franco Di Santo this week as the search for replacements continues at The

With the club now in the thick of the hunt for as many as seven new signings, the Argentinian, who has been released by Wigan, is a gun for hire in the summer market. A modest record of 13 goals in 92 appearances during his three-year spell with the

Gareth backs Villa's policy

GARETH SOUTHGATE reckons Villa's youth policy can be the blueprint for Premier League success.

The former claret and blue skipper believes Paul Lambert is right to put his faith in young talent without megabucks to spend.

Lambert guided Villa to Premier survival with an inexperienced squad and has targeted bargains buys this summer.

He has signed five players, including Jores Okore, 20, and 22-year-old Nicklas Helenius, and Southgate believes Villa can be an example to others.

"Yes, there has to be a reality with what can be done," said former Middlesbrough boss Southgate, who made 245 appearances for Villa. "The world has changed and other clubs have come in with enormous wealth which makes it difficult for everyone else. "If you go with young players you run a risk. I did it to a degree at Middlesbrough. "I put a lot of faith in youth and in hind-sight I perhaps put too much faith in certain positions. Having said that, unless you have got the money a couple of the owners in the Premier League have then you have to really assess how you spend."

Villa are looking to trim their wage bill and have allowed Brett Holman to leave on a free. Big earners Darren Bent, Shay Given and Stephen Ireland are expected to

and have allowed Brett Hollman to leave on a free. Big earners Darren Bent, Shay Given and Stephen Ireland are expected to go and Southgate said Villa have always run a tight ship.

Defender Derrick Williams has signed a three-year deal with Bristol City after turning down a new deal with Villa.



prefers.
Albion acknowledge a new-look front-line is inevitable with the high

inevitable with the high probability that both Romelu Lukaku and Peter Odemwingie will be elsewhere.

They continue to be linked to a variety of targets, although one, Anderlecht striker Dieumerci Mbokani recommended by Lukaku, has now agreed a move to Dynamo Kiev.

Kiev.

Another exile from Wigan's relegation,
Arouna Kone, is on the list for talks as is
PSV Eindhoven's Ola Toivonen, who
already has an offer to join Norwich.

A name to emerge over the weekend was
Belgium international winger Nacer Chadli
of FC Twente. The 23-year-old international team-mate of Lukaku has cooled on
Shakhter Donetsk at the prespect of

tional team-mate of Lukaku has cooled on Shakhtar Donetsk at the prospect of coming to the Premier League.

Chadli's agent, Daniel Evrard, said: "It is hard to choose Ukraine this early in the transfer window, when everyone around him wants to see him play on a Saturday in the Premier League, a competition he wants to go to really bad."

The Beargies have trailed the wideman for

wants to go to really bad."

The Baggies have trailed the wideman for more than three years but with both Liverpool and Spurs reported to be interested, the Baggies have to wait their place in the food chain.

Albion are again intent on running with a squad of 22 seniors - to include three keepers - and remain in talks with Marcantoine Fortune and Zoltan Gera. But the trail out of The Hawthorns is easier to identify than the in-coming deals. with Markus tify than the in-coming deals, with Markus Rosenberg given clearance to seek a new club after a disappointing debut season.

New look away strip goes on sale



Gareth McAuley models the new Albion away kit which will be on sale next month

ALBION this week revealed next season's new away kit which will go on sale next month.

month.

The Baggies' change strip, made by adidas, will be available to buy on Wednes-

day, July 3.
All shirts will also carry the logo of the

club's main sponsor, Zoopla, and an adult top will cost £44.99 with children's shirts

Supporters can pre-order now online at wbashop.co.uk, via mail order on 0871 271 9795 or in-store at the Stadium Megastore and Merry Hill club shop.

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